



GARDEN SCHEME POLICY

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The garden scheme is targeted at those most in need of assistance due to ill health, disability or old age. It consists of two elements:

- a grass cutting service and
- a top up service, in addition to the grass cutting service, which includes border maintenance, digging and pruning.

1.2 This policy is supported by the Garden Scheme procedure.

2.0 RESPONSIBILITIES

2.1 Board of Management

- To ensure that there is in place a Garden Scheme policy which meets the needs of specific groups of tenants, and the requirements of Almond Housing Association Limited (AHA Ltd.).

2.2 Management

- Head of Housing Management: To manage the implementation of the policy and procedures on a day-to-day basis, advising the Board of Management, other Heads of Section and all employees as required on specific matters.

2.3 Employees

- To ensure they have read and understood the policy and procedures, and to implement them as required in the course of their work.

3.0 ELIGIBILITY

3.1 To be eligible for the scheme, the applicant must be a tenant, and the applicant and any other members of their household must be:

- a) aged 70 years or over, **OR**
- b) aged 65–69 years and have a medical form signed by their GP, Health Visitor or District Nurse which describes the nature of their physical or mental disability and how the nature of the disability would prevent them from maintaining their garden, **OR**
- c) aged 15 – 65 years and be in receipt of Disability Living Allowance which has been awarded as a consequence of a physical or mental disability, where the disability would impede their ability to maintain their garden, **OR**
- d) registered blind.

- 3.2 Where Disability Living Allowance has been awarded the applicant must provide evidence that this is for a physical or mental disability, and indicates what it is about the disability which prevents or impedes them from being able to maintain their garden.
- 3.3 To be considered for the Scheme, there must be no able bodied member of the family living with the tenant.
- 3.4 Consideration will also be given to people who are living on their own and are normally fit but who are temporarily incapacitated and unable to maintain their garden e.g. during a period of recuperation following an operation such as a hip replacement etc. This will be subject to appropriate medical evidence and each case will be considered on its own merits at the discretion of the Housing Manager.

4.0 SCOPE OF THE SCHEME

4.1 The Garden Scheme will normally cover the following services:

a) Grass Cutting Service

This will be a contract to cut the grass regularly during the growing season April to early October. It will also incorporate hedge trimming as appropriate.

b) Top Up Garden Maintenance Service

This will normally cover the following work, on request and following assessment by AHA Ltd:

- Grass cutting (where the only access for machinery is through the house)
- Hedge trimming
- Pruning of roses and shrubs
- General tidying of border areas
- Pruning of tree branches
- Weed spraying
- One-off works such as rotovating ground and planting grass seed
- Miscellaneous one-off tasks to minimise maintenance.

5.0 REVIEW

5.1 The Head of Housing Management will ensure that this policy is reviewed by the Senior Management Team at least every five years.

FIRST APPROVED IN	SEPTEMBER 1996
CURRENT VERSION 5.0 APPROVED IN	NOVEMBER 2016
NEXT REVIEW DUE BY	NOVEMBER 2021