

Appendix 1 – Comparison of local authority Garden Assistance Schemes

Local Authority	Cost of Service	Service provided	Eligibility criteria	Eligibility for service free	Eligibility for paid service	Notes
Chesterfield Borough Council	Grass cutting: £3.30pw Hedge cutting: £1.40pw (£4.70pw for both) <u>Annual charge</u> Grass cutting: £ 171.60 Hedge cutting: £72.80 Both: £244.40 pa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Grass cutting</u>: 14 times a year between April and October • <u>Hedge cutting</u>: twice a year over the spring and summer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disabled tenants • Tenants aged over the age of 60 	n/a	Disabled tenants Tenants over the age of 60	Priority to tenants over 60 receiving disability related benefits Other disabled tenants prioritised according to age and time on waiting list for the scheme
City of Lincoln Council	Free service	<p><u>Grass cutting</u>: 8 times a year between March and November, including one clearance of all cuttings in May.</p> <p>(number and the frequency of cuts each year will depend on weather conditions. Grass cuttings will be blown or swept from any footpath but will not be collected, other than in May)</p> <p><u>Hedge cutting</u>: 3 times a year only, once in February/March, once in June/July and once in October/November. Cuttings will be cleared away.</p>	<p>We offer a free garden service to our tenants who are 65 or over and to tenants of any age who are unable to cut their grass or hedge due to physical disability or frailty. Tenants must also have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No able bodied person living within the household • No practical support from any other active family member who lives locally <p>(tenant circumstances assessed by housing officer, including any benefits the tenant is in receipt of)</p>		n/a	Grass cutting and hedge trimming service only
Bracknell Forest Homes	Free service Paid service available to tenants not eligible for free service <u>Paid service</u> : £20.83 per month (12 months) (Equivalent weekly charge: £4.81pw) (Equivalent annual charge: £249.96)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Grass cutting</u>: 10 grass cuts a year between (April and October) • <u>Hedge trimming</u>: twice a year • <u>Paid service</u>: will attend every 14 working days 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No relatives within a 10 mile radius who could carry out such works • In receipt of housing benefit • No-one living in the household who could reasonably be expected to help • Have a clear rent account showing nil balance or are in credit • In receipt of mobility Personal Independence Payment or Attendance Allowance. 	Any tenant meeting the eligibility criteria	Tenants who do not meet the eligibility criteria for the free service	
London Borough of Croyden Council	£25 per hour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tidying up front and back gardens • Grass cutting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aged 60 or over or disabled • Own your property or be a tenant of the council, a housing 	n/a	Available borough-wide to owner-occupiers, council tenants	

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(Staying Put in the Garden Service)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pruning Weeding <p>No fencing work can be done, and no work can be done on anything higher than six feet.</p> <p>For private sector tenants the scheme cannot carry out any work which is the landlord's responsibility.</p>	association, or private rented property		and private rented tenants who meet the eligibility criteria for the scheme	
Manchester City Council (Northwards Housing)	Free	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 grass cuts of front and rear lawns between April and October time and trimming of boundary hedges <p>(this means that each gardens get cuts approximately every 6 weeks, depending on weather)</p>	<p>Aged over 75:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Everyone living in the home is over 75 and unable to keep the garden in a reasonable condition Be in receipt of Housing Benefit or a pension which pushes the tenant just over the Housing Benefit threshold A secure Northwards tenant or leaseholder Less than £150 in rent arrears Are not in breach of their tenancy <p>OR</p> <p>Everyone in the home is 65 or over, gets Attendance Allowance and is unable to keep their garden in a reasonable condition</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Everyone in the home receives either the enhanced rate of the Daily Living Component and/or the enhanced rate of the Mobility Component of a claim for Personal Independence Payment (PIP).</p>	All eligible tenants	n/a	Very limited and basic service as they have in excess of 500 properties on the scheme.
Perth & Kinross Council	£1.77 per week (Annual cost: £92.04) The charge is payable in advance with the weekly rent.	<p><u>Grass cutting</u>: every fortnight between April and September (weather permitting) Grass edges strimmed at alternative cuts (edges will not be strimmed if you have a stone chipped border) Grass cuttings bagged and removed</p> <p><u>Hedge cutting</u>: Where tenants have hedges less than 2 metres tall these</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tenants aged 65 or over Tenants under 65 who are physically disabled also qualify, providing they are in receipt of Disability Living Allowance, Severe Disablement Allowance or Attendance Allowance. <p>In addition to the above conditions, there must be no one over 16</p>	n/a	Qualifying tenants	

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		will be cut once in the season in September or October. Cuttings will be collected and removed.	and able-bodied person within the tenant's household.			
NEDDC/Rykneld Homes	<p>Free service to tenants who meet eligibility criteria</p> <p>Paid service available to those who don't meet the eligibility criteria for the Assisted Garden Maintenance scheme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> £148.52 inclusive of VAT invoiced quarterly (£37.13 per quarter) as a service charge* <p>(Equivalent weekly charge: £2.86)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grass cutting: 12 times a year between mid-March to mid-October Hedge cutting: cutting boundary hedges once during the Autumn/Winter period Treat vegetation along grass boundaries before the grass cutting season 	<p>Tenants must meet one of the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> have a terminal illness and live alone be older than 80 years of age and live alone have a severe physical impairment have a severe sensory impairment or are supported by carer from a recognised agency. <p>(evidence of receipt of relevant disability benefits or supporting evidence from a qualified professional, e.g. GP, social worker required)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No other resident at the property who can undertake the work Have no family or friends in the district who can undertake the work 	Tenants who meet the eligibility criteria for the scheme	Tenants who do not meet eligibility criteria for the scheme	Tenants who are not eligible for the free assisted gardening service can pay a service charge to use the service
North Lanarkshire Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Free to qualifying council tenants Paid to owner occupiers, tenants of private landlords and housing association tenants <p>Cost dependant on area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area 1: £108.37 including VAT Area 2: £131.88 including VAT. <p>(Equivalent weekly charge:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grass cutting: 10 grass cuts, reforming of edges on 2 occasions Hedge cutting: 3 hedge cuts Weed-killing on 2 occasions per year <p>(runs March to October)</p>	<p>1. NON-Pensioners (aged under 60): Must meet <u>all</u> conditions :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> receiving a qualifying benefit (Incapacity Benefit, Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payment (PIP) mobility component) live alone except when all household members qualify separately; and be able to produce medical proof of incapacity to maintain their garden <p>2. PENSIONERS (aged 60 or</p>	Qualifying council tenants	Owner occupiers, tenants of private landlords and housing associations	Charge based on actual cost. Differing cost to different areas of local authority area due to different contractors used in each area

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	£2.08pw/£2.54pw)		<p>above): Pensioners who are not receiving one of the qualifying benefits will qualify but should be able to provide medical proof of incapacity to carry out work and must also meet the other criteria listed in 1 above.</p> <p>3. PRESENT CONDITION OF GARDEN: The grass/hedges within garden must be in a reasonable standard level before inclusion onto the Garden Assistance Scheme.</p>			
Norwich City Council	<p>Norwich City Council Mow and Grow Gardening Scheme:</p> <p><u>One-off clearance:</u> £20 - clearance visit once a year</p> <p><u>One-off Large clearance:</u> £45 - substantial clearance where the majority of garden is higher than 1 meter. This includes brambles, grass and weeds</p> <p>(all eligible tenants, including those on Housing Benefit, have to pay for clearance work).</p> <p><u>Maintenance visits (optional):</u> £4.30pw (6 visits per year; weekly charge is added to rent account</p>	<p>One-off clearance or maintenance visits (six visits per year)</p> <p>The service includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mowing grass • pruning bushes and low, small branches • weeding • strimming (brambles, nettles and overgrown greenery) • tidying patio areas and hedges • Removing green waste (e.g. bushes, brambles and leaves). <p>The team is happy to carry out some planting work and gravel laying where tenants have provided plants and materials</p> <p>The team will carry out a limited amount of tree work but this must be agreed with the council before work begins.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be a Norwich City Council tenant • Not have any relatives or friends living nearby, or household members, who are capable of maintaining the garden • Be in receipt of one of the following benefits: Attendance Allowance, Disability Living Allowance (all levels), Severe Disablement Allowance, Industrial Injuries Benefit, War Disablement Pension, Long-term Incapacity Benefit, Employment Support Allowance (support element), Employment Support Allowance (transitional element). <p>(those who do not receive one of the above benefits but have health problems or a disability which makes it difficult to maintain their garden may still be considered for the scheme)</p>	n/a	All eligible tenants	If eligible tenants are in receipt of housing benefit, the amount of housing benefit will increase to cover the full amount of this additional weekly cost.
Nottingham City Homes	Free	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Grass cutting:</u> 12 times a year between March and October • <u>Hedge cutting:</u> twice a year, between May and June, and between October and November • A winter clean-up between 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nottingham City Homes tenant • Getting low level care Disability Living Allowance, high level mobility Disability Living Allowance or PIP • Aged 70 or above and not living with an able-bodied adult 	Free service	n/a	

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		November and March, including pruning shrubs and roses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not have rent arrears of more than £100, unless a repayment plan is in place 			
Sheffield City Council	Free of charge	Single visit each year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be aged 75 or over Have a disability which prevents the tenant from gardening There should be no-one else under the age of 75 living at the property, or any friends, relatives or neighbours able to do the work 	All eligible tenants	n/a	The Council are currently conducting a review of the service, and are collecting the views of people already on the scheme and reviewing how the service is provided, and have closed the service to new applicants. The criteria are likely to change once the review has taken place.
South Kesteven District Council	Free	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Grass cutting</u>: generally cut every 2-3 weeks depending on weather and rate of growth between April and November <u>Hedge cutting</u>: (where applicable) two times a year - summer cut June-August; winter cut November-January (generally starts in March and runs through to October each year) <p>Currently do not remove grass cuttings following cutting, however, where required, contractors will clear grass clippings from paths.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tenants aged over 70 and unable to maintain their garden due to medical condition/ongoing ill health or disability Tenants aged under 70: medical evidence to support claim (usually in the form of a doctor's note) Proof of benefit entitlement will be checked No local friends or relatives who could maintain the garden (within 10 miles of tenant's address) 	Free service	n/a	The Council say that in the case of those entitled to help, they consider requests for additional grounds maintenance work on merit, and that when considering requests for extra work they take into account their broader social responsibilities including obligations to other tenants and responsibility to ensure estates are tidy. Additionally, they say they consider the implications of doing nothing - in that if left unattended some problems (especially those concerning trees) may escalate and damage property or people.
Stockport	Free service	Two gardeners to work on the	Tenant of Stockport Homes who are:	All tenants meeting	n/a	Those with relatives living close by (within a

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Homes		garden twice a year. Help with planting, grass cutting, hedge cutting, strimming, chemical weeding, hoeing and pruning (but not tree work), which can be done within the period of the visit. Visits will be up to 1 hour depending on garden size. 1st visit – April/May 2nd visit – September/ October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 70 or over • Physically incapable of maintaining a garden due to disability (there is no age restriction for this) • There must be no other household member that doesn't fulfil the above criteria 	eligibility criteria		2 mile radius) can apply, but those without close relatives will be given priority
Stroud District Council/Stroud Town Council (Down to Earth Stroud)	£6 per hour per gardener <u>Annual charge</u> £60 per year for maximum 10 hours (tenants pay cash and a receipt is given)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As the tenant requires to a maximum of 10 hours per financial year (6 hours for just border work) • <u>Grass cutting</u>: try to do 3 weekly so the 10 hours lasts over the growing period • Can do lawns, shrub pruning, hedges, and borders within the scheme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unable to maintain own garden through age or ill health • Be in receipt of benefits including housing benefit, higher level DLA or PIP • Have no able-bodied person over the age of 16 living at the property who could maintain the garden 	n/a	Older tenants and disabled tenants in receipt of housing benefit, higher level DLA or PIP	No arbitrary age for eligibility - depends on health and physical ability. Applicants visited to 'assesses' their need for the garden support, as well as their eligibility. Tenant then advised of the number of hours they can have and who their gardener will be.
Tamworth Borough Council	Free	Grass and hedge cutting between April and October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tenants aged over 75 and unable to maintain their garden due to a registered disability or a medical condition • No able bodied persons over the age of 18 living in the property able to maintain the garden. 	Free service	n/a	In exceptional circumstances may use discretion for tenants under the age of 75.

Links

City of Lincoln Council: <https://www.lincoln.gov.uk/housing/council-tenants/housing-for-older-or-disabled-tenants/the-garden-service/>

Bracknell Forest Homes: <https://www.bracknellforesthomes.org.uk/garden-assistance>

London Borough of Croydon Council: <https://www.croydon.gov.uk/housing/privatehousing/help/garden> (hsg-stayingput@croydon.gov.uk)

Manchester City Council (Northwards Housing): <http://www.northwardshousing.co.uk/your-home-neighbourhood/gardens/>

Perth & Kinross Council: <http://www.pkc.gov.uk/article/14141/Garden-Maintenance>

North East Derbyshire District Council/Rykneld Homes: <http://www.ne-derbyshire.gov.uk/index.php/31-resident/environment/114-resident-grass-cutting>

North Lanarkshire Council: <http://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=7828>

Norwich City Council: https://www.norwich.gov.uk/info/20057/supported_living/1107/mow_and_grow_gardening_scheme_for_vulnerable_tenants

Nottingham City Homes: <http://www.nottinghamcityhomes.org.uk/your-neighbourhood/around-your-home/looking-after-your-garden/the-garden-assistance-scheme/>

Sheffield City Council: <https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/home/council-housing/garden-maintenance>

South Kesteven District Council: <http://www.southkesteven.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=8225>

Stockport Homes: <http://www.stockporthomes.org/advice-and-support/support-in-the-home/garden-maintenance/>

Stroud District Council/Stroud Town Council: <https://www.downtoearthstroud.co.uk/gardening-services/sdc-gardening-assistance-scheme/>

Tamworth Borough Council: <http://www.tamworth.gov.uk/garden-assistance>