

BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL
Environment Committee
26 February 2026
Decision Report

Recommendation that the Committee note the work to be carried out by Officers in relation to carrying out a review of all allotment sites regarding the provision of Council standpipes as well as identifying any unauthorised water supply systems.

Ward(s)

Bebside & Kitty Brewster, Cowpen, Isabella, Plessey, Wensleydale & Newsham

Risk Management

A budget of £8k is available for capital works in 2026/27.

Objective

Promoting the environmental, social, and economic wellbeing of the town and its community.

Crime Prevention

None.

Report

This report follows a request from a very small number of allotment holders and the associations to the Chair of the Environment Committee and Officers, for more water standpipes to be installed/renewed, as well as observations on other matters from Officers.

The Council have recently had work undertaken on three of our sites where the existing standpipes and boxes were replaced with new. Following this there have been other issues raised on the sites. These include e.g. identification of illegal supplies from our system to individual plots, to extending the water supply system to increase the number of standpipes due to the distance plot holders are walking from their plot to the standpipes.

Where there are illegal connections, this can, and has done in the past, seen leaks on the system which ultimately costs the Council. Indeed, the

more unauthorised/authorised connections may also lead to unnecessary volumes of water being used.

Officers have noticed and been informed of unauthorised connections to our system. Some have been disconnected and others are in the process of disconnection, in line with the conditions of the tenancy agreement. Some unauthorised connections are visible whilst others are not easily seen. Officers remind tenants that only Council supplied standpipes are allowed as opposed to permanent supplies into individual plots and to the consequences thereof.

There have also been requests that plot holders be given approval for additional connections. On one occasion a plot holder has offered to reimburse the Council for any costs.

It is proposed that a full review is carried out to get a fuller picture of the above and costs will be obtained for each scenario and a report submitted to a future committee.

The review will consider all sites within the town for adequacy of water supply provision and to what extent unauthorised additions are in place from the inspections we carry out. Any identified will be addressed within the budgets available.

Malcolm Wilkinson
Town Clerk

19 February 2026