

**Action from ED&I Committee 15 November 2022**

Agenda Item: 9. Nature Restoration Fund Long Term Plan

Responsible Officer: Colin Bell

**Information Sought:**

NB Environmental Protection Manager to re-circulate information in relation to the withdrawal of the use of glyphosate.

**Response:**

The council does use weed-killer to manage vegetation growth on paths, verges and hard standing where the active ingredient used is glyphosate, a legally approved (UK and Europe) non-selective systemic weed killer.

The effective use of this weed killer allows us to manage our open spaces (e.g. around obstacles such as lampposts, cemetery paths and Highway streets) in a cost effective manner. That said we do try to minimise usage and we also utilise other forms of weed / vegetation control such as strimming and mulching of shrubberies.

Benchmarking has recently been carried out via APSE (Association for Public Service Excellence). Some authorities have used Foam Stream Systems. These systems do work on hard standing areas, but more frequent visits are required. Also, due to the restriction of the hoses, packing and unpacking when the vehicle needs to move means that they have limited use. They wouldn't be suitable for treating long linear areas along footpaths, highways and housing estates, although could well be a great alternative for play areas, game courts, public realm etc. We understand that they can't be used on landscaped areas as they would have a detrimental effect on plants and soil structure.

In conclusion there are some alternatives to glyphosate however they all come with their own factors or environmental factors that must be considered when making a decision on what control measures are being used, this would also include additional treatments due to weed control being less effective.

- Additional or increased costs for alternative products,

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increased resources and costs for additional labour and vehicles including fuel.</li><li>• Environmental factors, additional significant water usage, CO2 emissions.</li><li>• Public disruption, application in busy areas, hoses, foam, hot steam. ( hoses, pipes trailer, generators are not suitable for many areas tangled / a trip point)</li><li>• Effectiveness of treatment / need for additional treatments and site visits (resources and costs)</li></ul> <p>Officers are keeping an open mind regarding alternatives and continue to use all chemicals intelligently.</p>
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