



**Notice of a public meeting of
Economy and Place Policy and Commissioned Scrutiny Committee**

To: Councillors K Taylor (Chair), Daubeney (Vice-Chair),
Cuthbertson, Hook, Kilbane, Pearson and D Taylor

Date: Monday, 30 January 2023

Time: 5.30 pm

Venue: The George Hudson Board Room - 1st Floor West
Offices (F045)

AGENDA

1. Declarations of Interest

At this point in the meeting, Members are asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary interest or other registerable interest they might have in respect of business on this agenda, if they have not already done so in advance on the Register of Interests.

2. Public Participation

At this point in the meeting members of the public who have registered to speak can do so. Members of the public may speak on agenda items or on matters within the remit of the committee.

Please note that our registration deadlines have changed to 2 working days before the meeting, in order to facilitate the management of public participation at meetings. The deadline for registering at this meeting is 5:00pm on Thursday 26 January 2023.

To register to speak please visit www.york.gov.uk/AttendCouncilMeetings to fill in an online registration form. If you have any questions about the registration form or the meeting, please contact Democratic Services. Contact details can be found at the foot of this agenda.

Webcasting of Public Meetings

Please note that, subject to available resources, this meeting will be webcast, including any registered public speakers who have given their permission. The meeting can be viewed live and on demand at www.york.gov.uk/webcasts.

- 3. Weed Management Update** (Pages 1 - 78)
This report provides an overview on how the council manages weeds on the highway and open spaces.
- 4. Public Electric Vehicle Charging Network** (Pages 79 - 100)
This report provides an update on the Public Electric Vehicle Charging Network.
- 5. Urgent Business**
Any other business which the Chair considers urgent under the Local Government Act 1972.

Democracy Officer:
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For more information about any of the following please contact the Democratic Services Officer responsible for servicing this meeting:

- Registering to speak
- Business of the meeting
- Any special arrangements
- Copies of reports and
- For receiving reports in other formats

Contact details are set out above.

This information can be provided in your own language.

我們也用您們的語言提供這個信息 (Cantonese)

এই তথ্য আপনার নিজের ভাষায় দেয়া যেতে পারে। (Bengali)

Ta informacja może być dostarczona w twoim (Polish)
własnym języku.

Bu bilgiyi kendi dilinizde almanız mümkündür. (Turkish)

یہ معلومات آپ کی اپنی زبان (بولی) میں بھی مہیا کی جاسکتی ہیں۔ (Urdu)

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30 January 2023

Economy and Place Policy and Scrutiny Committee

Report of the Head of Environmental Services

Portfolio of the Executive Member for Environment and Climate Change

Weed Management

Summary

1. This report provides an overview on how the council manages weeds on the highway and open spaces.

Recommendations

2. The Scrutiny Committee is asked to:

Review the content of the overview and provide any recommendations to the Executive Member for Environment and Climate Change

Reason

To improve the care and maintenance of the local environment including roads and streets, the city centre and parks and green space.

Background

3. Weed control primarily takes place along the adopted highway, communal housing areas and a limited range of parks and open space locations. This is done through a combination of in-house staff and an external weed control company.
 4. Public Realm staff spray around obstacles in verges e.g., lampposts, street signs, trees, around communal drying areas and some parks and garden path edges and fence bottoms. This takes
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place in March / April and at ad hoc times later in the year as the need arises. Other areas such as shrub beds are maintained through manual weeding or the application of mulch / wood chip.

5. The contracted service covers aspects of the highway network - kerbs, footpaths / pavement joints, wall bottoms and back lanes, the bar walls upper footpath, bridges and supporting structures. Weed killer (glyphosate) is delivered in the main using quad bikes, supported with knapsack spraying. This takes place 3 times a year – April/May, June/July, and September/October (subject to weather conditions).
6. The above contract also includes the treatment of several injurious weeds and invasive plants, such as Creeping and Spear Thistle, Giant Hogweed and Japanese Knotweed. Our agricultural tenants e.g., Hob Moor, may also treat thistle with weep wipes or by topping (removal if the flower head before it sets seed).
7. In addition to the weed contract itself, the Public Realm service undertakes a programme of road and footpath sweeping across the city and this contributes to reducing detritus etc in the channels of roads and footpaths.

Previous Executive Member for Environment and Climate Change decisions

8. 7th October 2019. The Executive Member received an update of the service performance in relation to highway weed control and options for improvements to that service.
 9. One of the main outcomes from this meeting was the requirement that officers should investigate alternative methods weed treatment. Due to Covid pandemic of this work was delayed until 2021 and included testing or investigating
 - Acetic Acid applied at 20% strength, also known as vinegar (for human consumption is usually 5% strength),
 - Nonanoic acid (or Pelergaonic acid), a naturally occurring fatty acid)
 - Hot foam – boiling water with added foam (see more detail below)
 - Burning – using a portable propane torch
 - Manual e.g., with wire brush / hoe
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10. 12th January 2022. At this meeting the Executive Member received a report which examined options for weed treatment to inform how the Council's in house service and external contractors manage weeds for the next two years. The report included information on alternatives to using glyphosate including the outcome of trials of treatments undertaken in York, and the approach taken by a range of local authorities.
 11. At the meeting it was agreed that
 - glyphosate based treatments would continue to be used as the principal method of weed control.
 - That a new a two-year contract for highway weed treatment be let, with an option to extend for two years, with that decision being brought back to a future decision session.
 - A report be brought back to a future decision session, detailing discussions with a range of external organisations to obtain extra information on the feasibility of additional weed control trials.
 12. The above decision was called in by the Customer and Corporate Services Scrutiny Management Committee. Following the meeting in February 2022 it was agreed (in summary) to
 - a) To commit to phasing out the use of glyphosate, focusing on non-highway areas first then developing a plan for highways.
 - b) To start work with partners, such as Defra, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and Pesticides Action Network (PAN) to further explore and evaluate the best alternative weed management approaches.
 - c) Full and openly transparent trials over the coming summer will be offered to all wards to evaluate the impact of fewer glyphosate treatments. 'Pilot' wards will have one less externally contracted weed spray and will have street furniture trimmed once by the council's frontline teams, instead of the normal single spray carried out by the council's teams.
 - d) The procurement process for the new external contract will clarify that the council is on a journey to phase out glyphosate,
 - e) The results of all the trials will be reported to the Executive Member in January 2023
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13. 14th December 2022. At this meeting the Executive Member received a report which provided feedback on those wards and location which had omitted spray 3 and swapped weed spraying for strimming around highway verge obstacles. It also reported back on the discussion officers had undertaken with various organisations such as the Environment Agency, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and PAN.
14. The following wards participated in the weed pilot of 2022:-

Ward	Area
Guildhall	Whole ward
Osbaldwick and Derwent	Whole ward
Hull Road	Whole ward
Micklegate	Whole ward
Holgate	Defined areas to be omitted from spray
Fishergate	Whole ward
Rural West	Whole ward to be omitted from apart from Skelton.

15. At the meeting it was agreed:
- To offer wards the opportunity to opt out of a third spray in 2023 (i.e., not receiving spray 3 in September/October).
 - To offer wards the opportunity to opt out of a second spray in 2023 (i.e., not receiving spray 2 in June/July)
 - To cease spraying by Public Realm teams around trees within the highway verge.

Subsequently, a letter has been sent to all ward members advising that they can put their ward forward for this arrangement in 2023. Members have been asked to respond to the Public Realm service by 24th March 2023.

A copy of the report to the December 2022 meeting and appendices is included in Annex 1. Please note that some additional feedback from Cllr Vassie has been included as he sent feedback in the form of a case study for Wheldrake ward.

Issues raised by the Chair in advance

16. How CYC manages the performance of its primary contractor and anything it is doing/considering improving this. Response:
- The primary contractor provides weekly updates on which areas of the city has been treated. Evidence of die back will not be evident for 7 to 14 days after spraying depending on the type of plant treated. After this period has passed personal observation by Public Realm management and supervisors, elected members and members of the public are used to assess the effectiveness of the treatment. Where remedial action is required, the contractor is brought back at their expense.
 - With the existing staff resource available no changes to this approach are envisaged (please note that a restructure has taken place in Environmental Services and a new structure should be in place by March 2023. This includes an Operations Manager post that has been vacant for some time).
17. Details of any exclusion zones in City Parks / playground or near water and what methods of weed control are used in these areas. Response:
- There are no formal exclusion zones for the use of glyphosate as, with the correct application, is approved for use in all locations.
 - In practice the council does not use glyphosate inside play areas but does use it under boundary fences. Where weeds are present, i.e., in bark chip, these are manually removed and on wet pour surface moss / algae is removed by pressure washing.
 - Use near water courses is permitted and is used by the Environment Agency in such circumstances (see Executive Member for Environment and Climate Change Decision Session 14th December 2022). The critical factor here is that it is only used in dry weather such that it does not run or get washed off the plant and into gullies which link to the local water course.
18. Detail on how the Pollinator Strategy is being adhered to in this service area and explanation for any ways it might not be versus other Council requirements. Response
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- On 13th December 2022 the Climate Emergency Policy and Scrutiny Committee received an update on the progress of the Pollinator Strategy Item 19. Within the report reference was made to the ongoing work overseen by Executive Member for Environment and Climate Change and the Scrutiny Committee minute states *The Committee welcomed the work undertaken in the Pollinator Strategy and were informed of how it had been incorporated into operations and projects.*
- Glyphosate is used as a spot treatment; therefore, pollinators could be harmed if they were on the plant at the time it was treated. This is considered possible but unlikely as the disturbance caused by the spray / contractor is likely to cause the pollinator to move away. The plant which was being sprayed will not mature to flower so there is the loss of future food source - this would happen with other treatment options i.e., manual removal.
- The primary focus to assist pollinators is through changes to the management regime for large grassland areas e.g. near the Millennium Bridge, Clifton Ings. Areas where no spraying takes place and reduced mowing is happening.
- All efforts are made to adhere to the Pollinator Strategy. Nevertheless, the Council also has to ensure that it manages the Highway network effectively and therefore the Council, has to ensure that efforts are made to protect roads and footpaths from weed growth/damage. Striking this balance needs is important in terms of highway asset maintenance and degradation.

19. Details on how CYC expect to achieve its stated commitment to phase out the use of pesticides from this service and the date by which this is done. Response:

- No exact date has been set. In the meantime,
 - a) the impact of reduced spraying is being assessed along with the continued exploration of alternative treatment options.
 - b) For 2023, the Council will stop using glyphosate to treat weed / grass growth around established trees.
 - c) The Council continues to keep abreast of developments in this area and explores options to share best practice with other local authorities and partners.
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20. Given CYC's commitment to phase out the use of pesticides from this service and how we also know that communities have different views of levels of control, a comparison of the non-toxic methods of weed control we should be considering using after the current contract expires, and how they would be best applied in York. This should include both methods and costs to remove grown weeds and preventative (like removing leaves and detritus from roads before they do grow). Response:

- Once this year's (2023) trials have finished, it is envisaged that a report will be brought back to the Executive Member for a decision on what type of contract will be let for 2024 onwards.
- The council has two large road sweepers and two path sweepers that undertake sweeping across the highway/path network across the city (there are also two small articulated mini sweepers that operate in the city centre). There is no scope within the current budgets to increase this number.
- If additional staff resources were to be committed to this area for manual sweeping, then a Grade 5 employee with on costs is approximately £28,000 per annum
- Additional street sweeping vehicles depending on size costs as follows; in the region of £180,000 for a large road sweeper, in the region of £120,000 for a path sweeper. A mini articulated sweeper costs in the region of £90,000. The costs of a driver (Grade 5 employee) would be approximately £28,000 per annum.

21. More detail on the "Work with Other Agencies" that the Report from the Executive Member Decision Session on 14/12/22 touches on; including liaison with local authorities who have been successful in this area (because they exist). Response:

- At the Executive Member Decision Session on 12th January 2022 Annex 2 listed some 21 local authorities who had responded to APSE and of the 21 LA's only 1 (London borough of Hounslow) had ceased to use glyphosate.
 - The council is aware of some authorities that have ceased using glyphosate. One of these authorities is Glastonbury Town Council. Glastonbury have confirmed that they use a hot foam method exclusively and that it is a two person operation. Glastonbury Town Council covers just to town area and the local District Council are responsible for the
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parcs and play equipment and they continue to use glyphosate.

- Isle of Wight Council took the decision to stop using glyphosate and after a two year period reversed this decision due to weed growth across the highway network.
- Information from Manchester City Council was included in the report of December 2022. Manchester have also confirmed that an article in a press article regarding their glyphosate usage was erroneous.
- PAN have included case studies from local authorities in their information and this is included in the Annexes.

22. Detail on how risk is managed in this service area both in terms of day-to-day operations and previous decisions to continue with using glyphosate as the main primary method. Response:

- The current external contractor is nationally accredited and has 20 years' experience in the sector working for several local authorities. As part of their tenders' submission, they are required to provide proof of accreditation, suitable insurance cover, evidence of staff qualifications, risk assessments and method statements.
- The contractor is able to provide GPS data to identify speeds at which vehicles have travelled whilst undertaking spraying activity.
- In house staff are trained and accredited to carry out spraying. This includes PA1 and PA6 spraying certificates. Staff receive training and refresher training through accredited training providers. Further staff training is planned for 2023 to train any new members of staff (e.g. city centre, general operatives etc).

23. Any ideas / further work that Officers would be interested in exploring in this area. Response:

- Information included above make reference to the work already going on in relation to the future management and treatment of weeds.

Summary

24. Glyphosate remains the treatment of choice for most, if not all, local authorities with a highway function. We are not aware of, but

suspect the horticultural / chemical industry's will be looking at alternatives; as yet these are not commercially viable.

25. Manual weed treatment for some of the highway network is an option but this would require a significant increase in the council's workforce to delivery. For health and safety reasons, a total move to manual control would require road closures and / or traffic management in place further adding to the cost and disruption. If the Council was minded to further increase street sweeping vehicles to support this and then the additional costs plus the associated cost of disposal of the arisings and debris would need to be considered.
26. The further trials of reduced spraying will test the public's appetite for more weeds on the highway and allow the Council to fully appraise the impact non spraying may have on an incremental basis.
27. The impact of more weeds could lead to a degradation of the highway/path network and therefore associated re-instatement costs and/or insurance claims. This needs to be borne in mind in making any decisions.

Council Plan

28. This report supports and contributes to the following Council Plan priority – a greener and cleaner city

Implications

- **Financial** – This operation (outlined within the report) is funded from the net revenue expenditure budget for public realm, for 2022/23 this is £3.3m.
 - **Other** – none
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Contact Details

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Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

James Gilchrist
Director of Environment, Transport and
Planning

Report **Date** 20/01/2023
Approved

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background papers

Decision Session Executive Member for Environment and Climate
Change 7th October 2019

Decision Session Executive Member for Environment and Climate
Change 12th January 2022 Weed Management of Highways and
Associated Areas

Customer and Corporate Services Scrutiny Management Committee
(Calling In) 7th February 2022 – Weed Treatment Options.

Climate Emergency Policy and Scrutiny Committee 13th December
2022 Pollinator Strategy Update

Decision Session Executive Member for Environment and Climate
Change 14th December 2022

Annexes

Annex 1 - Weed Management of Highways and Associated Areas – Pilot wards feedback and next steps Report to Executive Member for Environment and Climate Change, 14 December 2022

Annex 2 - Member Feedback

Annex 3 - December report photos

Annex 4 - December report Nov photos

Annex 5 - PAN Guide for LA

Annex 5a - PAN Three year pesticide phase out plan

Annex 6 - Wheldrake Ward report Nov 22

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**Decision Session - Executive Member for
Environment and Climate Change**

14 December 2022

Report of the Director of Transport, Environment and Planning

**Weed Management of Highways and Associated Areas – Pilot
wards feedback and next steps****Summary**

1. This report provides feedback on the Weed pilot undertaken in 2022. The report includes feedback from ward members whose wards participated in the Weed pilot in 2022 together with a suite of images captured from this years' weed spraying programme.
2. The report also outlines feedback received from other bodies and organisations regarding weed treatment and details proposed options for 2023 and possible further work.

Recommendation

3. The Executive Member is asked to:
Consider the report and the recommendations contained within the report and determine the approach to the treatment of weeds in 2023.

Reason: The Executive Member is asked to consider the report and decide on the preferred option(s) set out in the report for weed treatment in 2023.

Background

4. At the Executive Member for Environment and Climate Change meeting on 12th January 2022 it was agreed that for the next two years the Council would:
 - Continue to spray around obstacles in verges e.g., lampposts, street signs, trees, around communal drying areas and some parks and garden path edges.

- Continue to spray kerbs, footpaths / pavement joints, wall bottoms and back lanes, the bar walls upper footpath, bridges and supporting structures. This takes place 3 times a year – (i) April/May, (ii) June/July and (iii) September/October (subject to weather conditions)

5. Following the Customer and Corporate Services Scrutiny Management Committee (Calling In) on 7th February 2022 the Executive Member agreed that

- Ward Members could choose to be a ‘pilot’ ward and opt out of some of the glyphosate treatments for 2022, and,
- The Council would continue to work with partners, such as Defra, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and PAN (Pesticides Action Network), to further explore and evaluate alternative weed management approaches to enable the successful phasing out of glyphosate.

Weed Pilot 2022

6. In early March 2022, all ward councillors were written to and asked if they wished to take part in the Weed pilot 2022 which would see a reduced spraying regime for their ward. Members were asked to respond by 30th March 2022 to indicate if they wanted their ward to be considered for the Weed Pilot.
7. The following wards came forward to take part.

Ward	Area
Guildhall	Whole ward
Osballdwick and Derwent	Whole ward
Hull Road	Whole ward
Micklegate	Whole ward
Holgate	Defined areas to be omitted from spray
Fishergate	Whole ward
Rural West	Whole ward to be omitted from apart from Skelton.

Wheldrake	Defined area only to be omitted from spray
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8. Those wards that participated in the Weed pilot had no 3rd spray (undertaken in October) and had the 'normal' spraying around highway obstacles (lampposts, trees, road signs etc) replaced with strimming. In Holgate and Wheldrake, two communities agreed to have no spraying at all and were omitted from all operations. Members from the Pilot wards were issued with a proforma feedback sheet and asked to respond by 31st October 2022.
9. At the end of the season, two ward members from the pilot wards have provided feedback / observations; this is included in Annex 1.
10. In support of the Weed pilot, officers have taken photographs illustrating the impact of the ward choices. This information is included in Annex 2.

Contractor Performance

11. Over the course of the last few months, officers have checked on the work of the approved weed contractor. Broadly, there is clear evidence where the contractor has sprayed and evidence of the glyphosate killing weeds; thus protecting the highway network.
12. There have been a couple of minor issues with the contractor performance on defined streets which were exacerbated by residents requesting areas not to be sprayed. The main area where high weed growth was noted was on Victor Street, Kyme Street and Buckingham Street. These streets did receive a follow up visit from the weed contractor and further remedial work has taken place to address the situation.

Work with Other Agencies

13. Over the course of the last few months, officers have worked with and sought information from other agencies regarding weed treatment.
14. A meeting was held with PAN (Pesticides Action Network) in May 2022 where PAN shared a number of case studies where they have worked with other authorities. This information is included in Annex 4

15. Yorkshire Wildlife Trust (YWT). The conversations with YWT confirmed that their estate is very different from the highway network that the Council manages. As such they have limited need for chemical weed treatment and can rely on volunteer work parties to address invasive weeds on their reserves.
16. Environment Agency. Discussions with the local Biodiversity Officer confirmed that the Environment Agency continue to use glyphosate to treat problem weeds along their river network. Conversations also confirmed that whilst they are keeping an eye on developments in the industry that there are no alternative methods being trialled at this moment in time and no plans to move away from the use of glyphosate as their treatment method.
17. Defra. Despite a number of approaches to Defra there was no reply to the Council's request to meet.
18. Other Local Authorities. Information has been sought from a number of local authorities regarding the treatment of weeds. It is fair to say that a number of authorities have pledged to reduce or end their use of glyphosate but very few areas that have delivered these aspirations. Meetings were held with Manchester City Council officers who contract their spraying out but they have developed a community network where they allow groups to treat weeds in their communities. Broadly, this has worked but there are a number of areas where the Council has had to intervene to address problem areas and weed growth.

Outcomes and Suggested Way Forward

19. Feedback from two of the pilot wards has indicated that broadly there is support for the removal of one of the three sprays to reduce glyphosate usage (i.e., to reduce to two sprays).
20. From the observations by officers there are noticeably less weeds in those wards which received three sprays compared to two. This is particularly evident where the road sweepers can't compensate for reduced spraying i.e. along wall bottoms.
21. It should be noted that a reduction in spraying from 2 to 3 occasions will not produce a 1/3rd reduction in the use of glyphosate. With more weeds being present from the omission of the previous treatment, more glyphosate will be needed to treat what has been left to grow.
22. Anecdotal evidence suggests that where there has been no 3rd spray the resulting weeds are continuing to grow into November

and catching winter leaf fall, which in turn may increase the growing medium for next year's weeds. See Annex 3.

23. The long-term impact on highway repairs and maintenance remains an issue we have not been able to ascertain data on.
24. One consideration that needs to be borne in mind is that the weed pilot in 2002 has assessed the impact in that year alone and what is unknown at this stage, is whether not having a third spray will have an impact on the level of weed growth and weed coverage in those areas at the start of the next spraying regime in 2023. This will only be able to be answered in April/May 2023.
25. Therefore, the principal options open to the Executive Member are to consider the following:
 - a) To have a common approach to weed treatment across all wards across the city with no deviations
Why – this will ensure there is a universal approach across the city and remove any uncertainty of treatment effectiveness particularly where streets cross ward boundaries.
 - b) To offer wards the opportunity to opt out of a third spray in 2023 (i.e. not receiving spray 3 in September/October)
Why – this will allow Ward members to decide on the approach in their ward and decide if they wish to reduce the sprays in their areas from 3 to 2.
 - c) To offer wards the opportunity to opt out of a second spray in 2023 (i.e. not receiving spray 2 in June/July)
Why – this will allow Ward members to decide on the approach in their ward and if they wish to reduce the sprays in their area from 3 to 2. It would also enable the Council to understand the impact of missing the summer spray which has not been tried up to this moment in time). in their areas from 3 to 2.
 - d) To cease spraying by Public Realm teams around trees within the highway verge
Why – broadly this is shown to be unnecessary as it has minimal impact – this would reduce the in house usage of glyphosate by approx. 5-10%.
26. Options a) to c) can be accommodated in the existing spraying contract which has a further 12 months to run. The experience from 2022 and, potentially 2023, would the inform the next spraying contract which will need to be retendered in the winter of

2023/24. Option d) above is not part of the contracted-out operations and is therefore an internal consideration only.

Council Plan

- 27. This proposal supports and contributes to the following Council Plan priority - a greener and cleaner city.

Implications

- 28. **Financial** - None.
- 29. **Public Health** – None
- 30. There are no Legal, Property, Human Resources, Crime and Disorder, or Information Technology implications arising from this report.

Risk Management

- 31. In compliance with the Council’s risk management strategy the main risks that have been identified in this report are that a decision is not made on a proposed weed treatment option which could in turn damage the Council’s image and reputation. Measured in terms of impact and likelihood, the risk score has been assessed at “Low”. This means that the risk level is acceptable.

Contact Details

Authors:	Chief officer responsible for the report:
Ben Grabham Head of Environmental Services Dave Meigh Operations Manager, Strategy and Contracts	James Gilchrist Director of Transport, Environment and Planning

Report Approved		Date:
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Specialist Implications Officer(s): N/A
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Wards Affected:	All	✓
For further information please contact the author of the report		

Background Papers:

Decision Session Executive Member for Environment and Climate Change 12th January 2022 Weed Management of Highways and Associated Areas

Customer and Corporate Services Scrutiny Management Committee (Calling In) 7th February 2022 – Weed Treatment Options

Weed Management of Highways and Associated Areas – Pilot wards Officer Decisions 18th May 2022

Annex 1 – Pilot ward member feedback

Annex 2 – Example weed growth

Annex 3 – Winter leaf build up

Annex 4 – PAN Documents

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Annex 2

Member Feedback

Cllr K Taylor (Holgate)

Herewith feedback on the weed pilot (or indeed, “pilots”) from a Holgate Ward perspective:

Pilot for manual strimming around street furniture by frontline CYC staff (replacing the normal single spray that is carried out by the Council’s teams in April/May).

No complaints raised here which I can only read as a positive step forward.

One less externally contracted weed spray on the highway network; due to contractual constraints this will be the final spray

As you know Holgate had a more nuanced approach with this where we entered all of the Ward into the pilot for two (down from three) sprays apart from:

- The whole of the Leeman Road area
- The Lindsey Avenue/Sowerby Road area and the terraced areas around Poppleton Road school.
- A small section of terraced housing off Carr Lane

This was due to how these are the areas which the current contractor and primary method, even at three sprays, struggled to provide a reliable service of weed control. While we want CYC to stop using glyphosate as its primary control method we were not willing to compromise already poor control in these areas even more. While the vast majority of residents would support more environmentally friendly methods - and while we should push for more tolerance for growth wherever possible and without compromising footpaths/roads access - many still want the job done.

In summary for this pilot:

We received zero complaints from residents about any of the areas that have been reduced to two sprays.

However, having added up emails and recollections of conversations at our drop-in sessions, we have received at least twenty-five complaints from residents living in the three-spray areas about the lack of weed control and/or the nature of the contractor’s activity on the quadbike.

Holgate Ward also had a neighbourhood, the St Pauls Square area, whose Residents’ Association asked for, and were given, total opt out of any spraying at all. No complaints have come through from this area. Some residents here have in this case undertook their own manual weed control but clearly this isn’t a sustainable long-term option. I did check in with one of their residents about it, who led their request for this pilot, and they said:

“The honest feedback from St. Paul’s would be that they would like weeding done but without spraying (or a non-chemical alternative, twice a year) - about a third of the households have older residents, some with health problems, who can’t weed themselves.”

I hope this is helpful Ben and that, regardless of whoever might run the Council from May onwards, this can help get the city to a place where we’re not having the same annual arguments. On both environmental and reliability grounds, the penny’s got to drop sooner or later than we’ve can do much better than what we’ve been doing to date.

Cllr Vassie (Wheldrake)

I echo Kallum’s comments.

To let you know, I am currently preparing my report on how things have gone in my ward. I will be able to give you photographic evidence re: examples of how the streets in Elvington look after a season of no glyphosate sprays, alongside evidence of how a weed brush has performed clearing vegetation growing in the soil/leaf litter nestling along some of the kerbs. I won’t yet be able to provide you with the results of a survey of Elvington residents to gauge their opinion on the scheme because that is not yet completed, but I will aim to get that to you in due course.

I can already tell you that I have received no complaints on this issue from residents over the course of this year. I also have information from Wheldrake, where the survey has been completed.

Cllr D’Agorne (Fishergate)

For Fishergate ward the only negative feedback I had was from Farrar St, which for some reason got missed out on the first spray and that was then rectified. The residents piloting no spray of their back alleys did get a deep clean which seems to have worked well but communication of what is happening when to ward councillors at least, if not residents could be improved.

I’ve had no complaints about the missing out of the 3rd spray. If possible reduced or no spray of selected areas where residents have taken the initiative to care for alleys should be allowed to continue.

Finally the point about putting more effort into removing leaf mulch before spring wherever this can be done is critical to reducing growth. We also need to continue a rolling cycle over 3 years or so to remove all cars street by street for a deep clean of gutters and gullies. Some streets with heavy leaf fall may need it annually, depending on the weather pattern around autumn (wet and not very much wind being the worst).

Hope this helps and we are able to continue to work on reducing spray while trialling alternatives at hotspots.

Cllr Craghill (Guildhall)

I think the main feedback I have had from Guildhall is that residents would like to understand more about what alternatives to glyphosate we have been or are planning to trial.

There is also – understandably I think – confusion in people’s minds between weed spraying and grass cutting and in future it would be good to look at both together e.g. in some places the frequency of grass cutting seems to have unnecessary impacts on biodiversity, whilst in other locations some grass cutting does help the appearance of an area where spraying is not taking place.

At the same time, the other feedback I have had is that, whatever you think about the negative impacts of glyphosate, the contract is in any case pretty ineffectual – spraying is done in a random way and leaves unsightly brown areas without really removing all the weeds – so a bit the worst of both worlds.

Finally, I would like to be reassured that CYC intends to continue working with Pesticides Action Network with further meetings planned to develop further glyphosate reduction plans.

Cllr Fitzpatrick (Guildhall)

The main feedback from residents to me, particularly in the Groves, is the reduced level of cutting back in the back alleys and a general lack of understanding of the options. I agree with some the other points Cllr Craghill makes.

Cllr Warters (Osballdwick and Derwent)

My response is the same as previously stated on numerous occasions.

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Example of verge obstacle where no spraying took place (nb area was strimmed later)

Fishergate – Broadway West 22nd June 2022



NB More pics on follow page

Examples of Sprayed Areas

Huntington – Meadowfields Drive 13th May 2022
(all area sprayed apart from vehicle parked on pavement)



Skeldergate – 28th July 2022



Bishophill - Cromwell Road – 28th July 2022



Hull Road / Lamel Street – 29th July 2022



Drake Street – 8th August 2022



Examples of areas with no 3rd spray



Micklegate –
Queen Street Bridge

17th October 2022



Fishergate –
Skeldergate Bridge steps

14th October 2022



Guildhall –
Union Terrace Coach
Park

14th October 2022

November weed growth

Guildhall – Navigation Road, 24th November 2022



Guildhall – Lead Mill Lane, 24th November 2022



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Annex 5

Going Pesticide-Free

A Guide for Local Authorities



Working together for a pesticide-free future



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Introduction

In Europe, and more widely throughout the world, there is a growing movement to end the use of pesticides in towns and cities. This has been triggered by growing public concern over the possible health effects of exposure to pesticides (including insecticides, herbicides, and fungicides), particularly for our children. Of equal concern are the effects that pesticide use is having on our wildlife – the serious declines of bees and pollinators, bird species and iconic mammals such as the hedgehog have all been linked to pesticide use. The contamination of water sources, including those used to supply our drinking water, is yet another major cause for worry.

It is not just agricultural use of pesticides that is driving these problems; the hundreds of tonnes of pesticides used in our towns and cities annually is having negative effects on urban biodiversity and presenting an unacceptable risk of exposure to the citizens of the UK.

In the UK, it is clear that people are concerned about the use of pesticides in their towns and cities and are keen to see changes made. A recent poll carried out for PAN UK showed that 68% of the public want their schools, parks, playgrounds and other open spaces in their local area to be pesticide-free.¹ The level of public attention has increased significantly since the debate over the safety of the most widely used amenity herbicide, glyphosate, and the ongoing discussions about its use in public spaces.² Despite there being no clear outcome on the glyphosate debate as yet, it has hugely increased both the awareness of and concern over the use of pesticides in public spaces.

In France there has, for many years, been a move away from the use of pesticides in towns and cities. Paris has been pesticide-free for over a decade. As a result of national legislation that came into force in January 2017, the use of almost all non-agricultural pesticides has been banned – meaning that all public spaces throughout France are managed without the use of pesticides.³ In Belgium, towns and cities in the regions of Flanders and Wallonia have stopped the use of pesticides completely. The City of Ghent, which has more than a quarter of a million residents, has

been completely pesticide-free for over twenty years. Other big European cities Barcelona and Hamburg have stopped using glyphosate and in Canada and the USA there is an ever-growing momentum to stop the use of pesticides in urban areas including parks and playgrounds. This trend will only grow as increasing numbers of non-chemical strategies are implemented and proven to be successful.

Pesticide Action Network UK (PAN UK) has compiled this brief guide to help local authorities end or reduce the use of pesticides in areas under their control such as streets, highways, pavements, parks, playgrounds, cemeteries and any other spaces that are frequented by the public. While it is aimed at councils, it can also be used by other land managers interested in ending pesticide use.

What are pesticides and how are they used?

Pesticides are chemicals used to control a variety of pests in a range of situations. Agriculture is the largest user of pesticides in the UK, but they are also used for amenity control of pests and weeds and by the public in their homes and gardens.

Pesticides include:-

- ◆ Insecticides that kill insects
- ◆ Herbicides that kill plants
- ◆ Fungicides that kill fungal problems

Throughout the towns and cities of the UK, pesticides are used in a wide variety of ways;

- ◆ Weed control – most commonly seen on streets and pavements, usually there are two or more applications per year. These are most commonly carried out by contractors employed by the council but can also be undertaken by in-house council work teams
- ◆ Control of insects in parks that are harming ornamental plants
- ◆ Control of invasive species such as Japanese knotweed
- ◆ Maintenance of sports pitches and golf courses

In the amenity sector, the most widely used type of pesticides are herbicides to control weeds and



other plant materials, notably on hard surfaces such as streets, pavements and pathways. They are also employed to deal with a range of issues including the control of insects and rodents. According to the latest survey on the use of amenity pesticides there are currently 38 different active substances being used across all sectors. A complete list of these actives is given in the box below and further information on the pesticides used in the amenity sector can be found in the Annex.

Whilst it is possible that the local authority for whom you work or are responsible does not actually use any pesticides itself, it is likely that outside contractors employed on its behalf to undertake maintenance, including weed clearance, are using pesticides of some kind. However, as the contract specifier you are ultimately responsible for any use of pesticides by third-party contractors. More importantly, it is within your power to dictate the conditions under which a company delivers on its contract with the council so specifying a non-pesticide approach is perfectly possible.

The most recent survey (dated 26 April 2018) revealed that there are 38 different types of pesticides used in UK towns and cities.

Herbicides

2,4-D, Acetic Acid, Aminopyralid, Asulam, Carfentrazone-ethyl, Citronella Oil, Clopyralid, Cycloxydim, Dicamba, Diflufenican, Ferrous Sulphate, Flazasulfuron, Florasulam, Fluroxypyr, Glufosinate-ammonium, Glyphosate, Isoxaben, MCPA, Mecoprop-p, Pinoxaden, Propaquizafop, Propyzamide

Fungicides

Azoxystrobin, *Bacillus subtilis*, Carbendazim, Chlorothalonil, Fludioxonil, Fluopyram, Fosetyl-aluminium, Iprodione, Prochloraz, Propiconazole, Pyraclostrobin, Tebuconazole, Trifloxystrobin

Insecticides

Diflubenzuron, Imidacloprid

Growth Regulators

Trinexapac-ethyl



Problems caused by pesticides

"While there is some debate over the health risks of glyphosate-based chemicals, there is no debate that at Hammersmith and Fulham, the health and well-being of our residents is our priority and we recognise the importance of a green agenda in better supporting that,"

Councillor Wesley Harcourt, London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham, 2016.

Impacts on health

It is important to recognise that pesticides do not only affect the organisms they are targeted at, but can have negative, and often unforeseen, impacts on non-target organisms including people. In terms of the impacts on human health, some groups are more vulnerable to the effects of pesticides than others. Children in particular are more susceptible for a number of reasons; their bodies are still developing, they are exposed to greater amounts of pesticides relative to their weight and they tend to be more directly in contact with sprayed areas such as playgrounds, parks and sports pitches. The report, "A Generation in Jeopardy", published by Pesticide Action Network North America takes a close look at the effects pesticides are having on our children, compiling dozens of scientific reports showing that we are submitting our children to unacceptable levels of risk by exposing them to pesticides.⁴

Whilst it is very difficult to directly link particular instances of chronic ill health with exposure to specific chemicals we do know that certain pesticides have qualities that can cause serious health conditions such as cancer and reproductive and developmental problems. Long term pesticide exposure has been linked to the development of Parkinson's disease; asthma; depression and anxiety; and attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

It is important to note that just because a pesticide is approved for use does not automatically mean it is "safe" to use. The dangers they pose is precisely the reason why they are regulated and even when approved, most licenses include specific conditions which must be followed to control the harm from these chemicals. Since 2007, the WHO has collated and updated a

list of the most toxic pesticides currently in use.⁵

The Precautionary Principle is an internationally-agreed standard for guiding decision-making to ensure that harms to human health and the natural environment are avoided. It states that:

*"When an activity raises threats of harm to human health or the environment, precautionary measures should be taken even if some cause-and-effect relationships are not fully established scientifically"*⁶

The principle is particularly relevant to decision-making around pesticides. In practice, it means that if there is sufficient evidence that a pesticide harms human health or the environment then it shouldn't be used, regardless of whether some scientific uncertainty remains.

Although the regulatory system is designed to take the harmful effects of pesticides into account we have seen time and time again that pesticides are authorised only to be banned later when more evidence emerges revealing the harms they have caused. However, by that point the harmful, and often irreversible, effects have occurred and either people or wildlife (and often both) have paid the price. Since pesticides are designed to kill living organisms and their potential for harm is well-known, a precautionary approach to their use is simple; **do not use pesticides when viable non-chemical alternatives are available.** In the UK amenities sector there are increasing numbers of non-chemical alternatives available and adopting a pesticide-free approach is perfectly possible to achieve. In fact, a number of councils around the UK are already doing it.

“ 68% of people want their local schools, parks, playgrounds and other open spaces to be pesticide-free.”



One aspect that the regulatory system completely fails to take into account is the so called 'cocktail effect' which refers to the fact that people are exposed to combinations of pesticides on a daily basis. Recent research has shown that combinations of chemicals can work synergistically to increase harmful effects that would not necessarily result from exposure to just one pesticide. In addition to amenity spraying, people are exposed to pesticides in multiple ways – most notably as residues in their food and drinking water and from use in the home – so are constantly coming into contact with cocktails of chemicals. Reducing our overall exposure by stopping their use in public spaces would help to decrease the risk of harmful health impacts, particularly for the most vulnerable groups such as old people, children and pregnant mothers.

Pesticides, including glyphosate, have also been known to cause injury to pets, most commonly to dogs but also cats and horses. Exposure tends to happen either directly through the skin or orally if an animal eats grass or plays with objects that have come into contact with pesticides. In dogs, the most common symptoms included vomiting, hyper-salivation and diarrhoea due to gastrointestinal irritation. In severe cases, acute poisoning could lead to death.

Threats to the natural environment

Pesticides are also negatively affecting the environment and urban biodiversity. Due to habitat loss and the large quantities of pesticides used in UK agriculture, wildlife is increasingly seeking refuge in our towns and cities. However, pesticides are destroying many of the areas where they can forage for food and contaminating the natural resources they depend upon.

Overuse of herbicides, in particular, is reducing the number and variety of plants in our towns and cities, including 'weeds' such as dandelions, which in turn limits the ability of wildlife to survive and prosper. Their use is also reducing the abundance and diversity of native and much-loved British plant species.

In recent years, the issue of dwindling bee and pollinator numbers has caught the attention of the British public. There are a growing number of campaigns calling for councils to adopt 'no mow' regimes on road verges and other areas that can be good pollinator habitats. According to the campaign group Plantlife, as well as providing habitats for many of our hard pressed bee and pollinator species, road verges are also home to over 700 species of wild flower - nearly 45% of our total flora – including 29 of 52 species of wild orchid.⁹ Ending pesticide use and stopping mowing are key ways in which councils can contribute to halting the recent declines in pollinators and other insects.

Pesticides are also responsible for contaminating much of the UK's water supplies, since they tend to run off hard surfaces such as pavements and paths. Hard surface spraying is the most common practice in the amenity sector despite aquatic ecosystems being particularly vulnerable to the harmful effects of pesticides. Populations of invertebrates, amphibians, fish and the mammals that feed on them can all be impacted by pesticide contamination of water bodies.

Contamination of water supplies is also a big problem for UK citizens. As a result of health concerns, water companies in England and Wales spend millions of pounds each year removing pesticides. This cost is passed on to the consumer resulting in higher water bills. South West Water, for example, estimates that 17% of the amount of its customers' bills results from passing on the cost of pesticide removal.¹⁰ Hard surface spraying can and does lead to runoff of applied pesticides into drains and other water courses, adding to contamination problems. Stopping the use of pesticides will help to reduce water contamination.

“ The EU relicensed glyphosate with the condition that its use in public spaces was minimised.”



The myth that glyphosate is 'safe'

In November 2017, EU Member States narrowly voted to relicense glyphosate for five years. Many have chosen to misinterpret this decision as a declaration that glyphosate is 'safe'. Due to concerns over its human health and environmental impacts, glyphosate was in fact relicensed with the specific condition that Member States "**Minimise the use in public spaces, such as parks, public playgrounds and gardens.**"⁷ This condition, however, is often missed by many decision-makers.

Despite the EU decision to relicense, many countries remain deeply concerned that glyphosate is harming human health and the environment and have already taken steps to ban it in urban areas. The list includes France, Germany, Italy and Austria.

Huge problems have also been identified with the process used by the EU to reach the decision to relicense glyphosate which has been found to be opaque and susceptible to manipulation by the pesticide industry. As a result, in February 2017, the European Parliament voted to set up its own special committee to review how pesticides are authorised, with the aim of breaking the undue influence of the industry. Despite the widespread acknowledgment that the EU process was deeply flawed, the UK government, and many local authorities, continue to justify their support for glyphosate by quoting the EU decision.

While much of the debate around glyphosate has focused exclusively on whether it causes cancer, it is important to recognise that independent scientists from around the world largely agree that long-term exposure to glyphosate is harmful to human health in a whole range of ways and can cause conditions such as kidney and liver disease, act as an endocrine and immune system disrupter and result in reproductive and neurological problems.

In March 2015, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC, part of the UN World Health Organisation) declared glyphosate to be genotoxic (it causes DNA damage), carcinogenic to animals, and a "probable carcinogen" for humans.⁸ This ruling was based on a review of one thousand publically available scientific studies by independent experts, free from vested interests. This is in contrast to the EU decision to renew the glyphosate license, which took into account studies funded by the pesticide industry which are not in the public domain.

In an effort to defend one of its most profitable products, the pesticide industry went all out to discredit the IARC findings, calling them "junk science" based on an "agenda-driven bias." The industry has so far spent millions of dollars telling people that glyphosate doesn't harm human health and undermining any scientist or institution that says otherwise.

However, given that the UK takes a precautionary approach to pesticides, the scientific evidence that glyphosate harms human health is certainly sufficient to ban its use. Evidence to the contrary is often funded or influenced by the pesticide industry, which is set to lose billions of dollars if glyphosate loses its license.



Drivers for going pesticide-free

Legislation and policies

In the UK, a number of pieces of legislation or guidance are aimed at reducing or stopping urban pesticide use in order to protect human health, biodiversity or water bodies from contamination by potentially toxic pesticides;

- ◆ UK National Action Plan on Pesticides¹¹ – As an EU Member State, the UK was obliged to draw up a National Action Plan (NAP) which set out actions to implement the European Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive. The NAP is currently the framework within which the UK works towards a more sustainable use of pesticides. The intention is to reduce the risks and impacts of pesticide use on human health and the environment. At time of writing (June 2018), the NAP is undergoing a review with the possibility of strengthening some areas in order to provide greater protection from pesticides. One of those areas is likely to be amenity use of pesticides which may see more restrictions introduced. Currently the NAP directs users of amenity pesticides to:

 - I. Take ‘all reasonable precautions’ to protect or avoid endangering human health when using, storing and handling pesticides
 - II. Confine pesticide applications to the target areas;
 - III. Ensure that the amount used and the frequency of use should be as low as is reasonably practicable in specific areas. Specific areas include those frequented by the public such as parks, playgrounds, schools and hospitals.
- ◆ The UK National Pollinator Strategy – this calls on local authorities to increase and improve areas of habitat for bee and other pollinator species. It includes recommendations to not mow areas in order to let wildflowers and other plants grow and to reduce pesticide use.¹²
- ◆ Defra guidance document, published February 2016 – “Providing and Protecting Habitat for Wild Birds” – this guidance document contains advice on how local authorities should be working to offer greater protection for wild birds. In urban areas species such as swifts, house sparrows and starlings can all benefit from proactive conservation activities and stopping the use of pesticides could be a contributory factor to the objectives outlined in the guidance document.¹³
- ◆ The EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) – this required all EU Member States to achieve good status for water bodies by 2015. Runoff from pesticides used in urban areas contributes to water pollution and can be reduced by stopping or significantly reducing the use of pesticides by local authorities. Whilst it is highly likely that there will be changes associated with Brexit in the short term, it is highly likely that the UK will remain aligned with the EU with regard to environmental regulations and so the requirements of the WFD will still be applicable. There is no reason to expect that water quality in the UK will become less of a priority once our full withdrawal from the EU takes effect and thus water quality must remain an important factor in the rationale for reducing pesticide use.¹⁴
- ◆ UK 25 Year Environment Plan – In January 2018, the UK Government published its 25 Year Environment Plan. The Plan lays out a range of goals and policies designed to ‘help the natural world regain and retain health’ and restates the government’s commitment to deliver a Green Brexit. One of the stated goals is to tackle the dramatic loss in biodiversity which has seen the disappearance of 95% of the UK’s wildflower meadows and 48% of its farmland birds. It also sets the objective of ‘...reducing the use of pesticides in the round and deploying them in a more targeted way’. Stopping the use of pesticides in urban areas will help to achieve many of the goals contained in the Plan including ‘connecting people with the environment to improve health and well-being’.¹⁵

Rising public concern

Public concern over the harmful effects of pesticides on human health has never been higher. As mentioned above, a 2017 poll carried out for PAN UK showed that 68% of the public want their schools, parks, playgrounds and other open spaces in their local area to be pesticide-free.¹⁶



There is also growing concern about the harm that pesticides are causing to our environment, which has been highlighted by the recent alarming declines in bee and other pollinator species in the UK.¹⁷ A poll carried out by Friends of the Earth in 2016 showed that 88% of the British public want similar or stronger environmental protections for the UK post-Brexit.¹⁸

In the UK, there is a growing Pesticide-Free Towns movement which is seeing ever more local-level campaigns being started by people concerned about pesticides. By June 2018, there were approximately fifty Pesticide-Free Town campaigns running nationwide. There have also been hundreds of online petitions started by concerned members of the public calling for local bans and reductions of pesticide-use in their towns and cities. Glyphosate – the pesticide which is used most widely in the amenity sector – is itself widely unpopular. A petition calling for an EU-wide ban received 1.3 million signatures, including just under 100,000 from the UK.¹⁹



Benefits of going pesticide-free

A range of benefits can accrue from adopting a pesticide-free approach. Financial considerations are of course a concern for councils across the UK, but with the costs of non-pesticide maintenance close to, or potentially less than, the chemical approach and the other non-financial benefits so high it is a win-win approach for all.

Overview of benefits:

- ◆ Improved health for council employees and contractors due to reduced exposure to pesticides.
- ◆ Safeguarding of the general public's health by reducing their exposure to potentially harmful pesticides.
- ◆ Potential financial savings for councils due to reduced spending on chemical inputs and compulsory training for staff applying pesticides.
- ◆ In contrast to pesticide application, most systems of non-chemical control can be used in any weather meaning there are fewer days when staff can't be out working. This makes it easier for councils to schedule work time efficiently.
- ◆ Increased ability to reach goals under individual council's sustainability strategies.
- ◆ Positive message for the public.
- ◆ Compliance with environmental and health legislation.
- ◆ Better habitats for bees, pollinators and other wildlife.
- ◆ Reduced contamination of water bodies which could lead to cheaper water bills and cleaner, safer water for the public.



How to make your local area pesticide-free

Going pesticide-free can seem a daunting challenge for many councils. But in fact, adopting different techniques need not be difficult or costly. Happily, there is a thirty-year history of towns and cities around the world switching to non-chemical methods. There is lots of experience out there that councils and their officers can learn from – you are not starting from scratch.

Assessing current pesticide use

The first step is to assess pesticide use to determine exactly why they are being used, what types are being used and in what quantities. Many uses are unnecessary and can be avoided. For example, changing planting schemes to provide more ground cover, or introducing “wildlife areas” in parks can do away with the need for pesticides altogether. In addition, some councils will be using pesticides prophylactically or blanket spraying to prevent potential issues that may emerge. This type of practice can be stopped immediately. Pesticides should be used as sparingly as possible and only ever to target an existing problem.

Non-chemical alternatives to pesticides

“The fact that whilst there is any possible hazard from a pesticide, surely it is better to reduce its use and look at alternatives? The more people that use alternatives, the more alternatives will be developed, tested and improved.” Andy Frost, Head of Parks and Green Spaces, Lewes District Council, 2018.

- Hot foam systems use high temperature water and foam to kill weeds. The foam, which is made using sustainable vegetable oils, helps keep the water at a high temperature while it kills the weeds – literally boiling them. One of the many benefits of this system is the fact that it can be used in any weather condition in contrast to herbicides (such as glyphosate) which can only be used when it is not raining or windy. As it is non-toxic and non-bio accumulative, it is suitable for use in sensitive areas such as nature reserves and in proximity to water bodies. The Foamstream System - developed by UK company Weedingtech - is also approved for use in organic systems by

the Soil Association. In addition to being used to control weeds, hot foam systems can also be used to remove chewing gum and moss.

- High pressure hot water treatments are similar to foam systems but instead rely solely on hot, high pressure water. They are effective for weed control and, as with foam systems, can also be used for other situations such as chewing gum and moss removal thus making them a versatile option.
- Electronic control systems are a relatively new approach that is particularly suited to dealing with invasive species. It works by using electricity to boil weeds from the inside out from the root upwards.
- Hand weeding is an option, particularly for smaller areas such as playgrounds and on paths running through parks. Some councils may be able to use their employees and parks staff to do this on a regular basis to maintain acceptable weed-free levels. However, given capacity constraints many councils have chosen to work with the local community around parks and other areas in order to recruit volunteers to help weed by hand. Friends of Parks groups are an obvious first port of call for finding willing helpers.

Not only does this get the job done but it is an effective way of engaging local communities to become more involved in their parks and local area. A sense of community spirit can be engendered and it has proved to be an excellent opportunity for the council to engage with local groups in a positive manner. There are already a number of councils using this approach and other land managers such as Royal Parks in London are also asking for volunteers to come in and hand weed.²⁰

- Mulching is an age old technique for dealing with weeds by smothering them. Mulching also offers other benefits including retention of moisture in the soil and, depending on the type of mulch being used, improved soil health. Organic material such as chips and bark from recycled Christmas trees can be used, or there is a wide range of mulch mats available. This



is a particularly useful approach in ornamental beds and in parks more generally.

- ◆ Acetic acid dilutions have been used very effectively to control weeds on hard surfaces in a variety of situations. Acetic acid is essentially just vinegar and, as such, is biodegradable and poses no risk of bioaccumulation.²¹ Some of the companies that make and sell pesticide products have started producing alternatives to glyphosate-based herbicides, using acetic acid as the active ingredient. There is some debate about just how effective this can be for large areas of hard surface in urban areas, but it can be a useful tool for smaller areas such as playgrounds.
- ◆ Flame treatment has been used successfully to eliminate weeds in many parks and green spaces. Whilst flame weeding can be an effective alternative to the use of pesticides, and much work has gone into making them more targeted and therefore safer, there are potentially health and safety issues for operatives. However, for smaller areas hand-held flame weeders might be a suitable tool if proper training is provided.
- ◆ Steel brushing can be used for larger areas such as pavements and roads and, in combination with the use of acetic acid spraying, can be a very effective alternative. Such systems are particularly useful for removing light weeds and moss from hard surfaces such as paving and tarmac.

Raising public awareness

Public awareness-raising activities are absolutely key to the success of reducing or ending pesticide use. It is vital that the public know what changes are planned, and the reasons they are being made, so that they can support the initiative. For example, in Paris, when they introduced a ban on herbicide use over ten years ago, the Mayor instigated an awareness-raising campaign for Paris residents, encouraging them to accept a greater level of 'weediness' as the payoff for reducing their exposure to potentially harmful chemicals. Many UK councils have told PAN UK that they receive complaints if they leave an area to grow weedy

without any information. However, if they put a sign up explaining that the area is being left for wildlife then residents tend to be supportive.

Publicising the action the council is taking can be done in a range of ways. Placing signs in areas which are pesticide-free is very effective, while running public meetings or consultations is another good way of keeping local residents informed. Working in conjunction with existing residents' or Friends of Parks groups in your area can also help to build local support for the change and help to get the message out.

One area that is vitally important is to report what you have been doing already. Many council departments will have tried to reduce the use of pesticides in some way. If that is the case, then this should be advertised to the public. Tell them what you are doing and what you have achieved so far. This transparent approach will help to reassure them that you are taking the issue seriously and taking steps in the right direction. One example of how to achieve this would be to create a map of the areas where you used to apply pesticides and show how that area has shrunk over time.

It is also worth promoting the fact if your council operations have reduced the volume of pesticides applied - sell it as a good news story. Records of use and purchases are available not only to you but also to the public via Freedom of Information requests – so the figures are not secret. It will again help to show that you are doing the right thing.

Working with contractors

More and more local councils do not undertake their own pesticide applications, particularly for streets and other non-park areas. This work is undertaken by contractors employed by the council, or sometimes even by sub-contractors. However, as the ultimate employer the council has the power to dictate the terms of the contract and is certainly well within its rights to insist that a contractor use non-chemical approaches.

Existing contracts which stipulate pesticide use may need to be renegotiated or rewritten. Often this will be possible within the contract period, but other times may have to wait until the end date.



Where an existing contract is in place and dates cannot be changed, it may still be possible to initiate measures in areas that fall outside of those covered by the contract.

If more councils require a pesticide-free approach from their contractors, then increasing numbers of contractors will have to provide that service and will invest the necessary technology to do so. Over time, this will make non-chemical approaches easier and cheaper and, ultimately, the norm rather than the exception.

It is even possible to make contractors key partners in going pesticide-free. In Lewes, East Sussex, the council's contractor purchased a hot foam system in partnership with the council but at no additional cost to local tax payers. The contractor now owns the machine which it used for the council just 30 days per year. The company is now able to generate additional income by hiring out a new non-toxic weed control service to neighbouring councils and land management clients.

Developing a pesticide policy

Given that the use of pesticide by councils can be a contentious issue for the public and often a point of concern, it is surprising how few have a detailed pesticide policy. It is important that each council sets out a clear policy on the conditions under which pesticides are being used in its area – how, where, when and why, and what measures are being taken to end or reduce pesticide use. This not only benefits council staff by clarifying the approach and overall direction of travel, but also provides reassurance to the general public that their council is taking the issue seriously. If the council is using pesticides, then its policy should also inform the public as to when and where they are being applied so that local residents can choose to avoid certain areas at those times. It's vital – particularly for vulnerable groups such as children, pregnant mothers and old or sick people – that they have the information they need to avoid sprayed areas. PAN UK is keen to assist councils in developing their own bespoke pesticide policies. Examples of two councils' pesticide policies are provided in the toolkit section at the end of this document.

Taking a measured approach

Implementing a no-pesticide policy, or significantly reducing pesticide use, requires careful thought and planning.

Real-life experience of establishing pesticide-free areas has shown that introducing measures in a phased manner increases the chance of success. For example, starting off in specific areas such as parks can be helpful. Pesticide-free 'pilot areas' can be used as both a learning opportunity for council staff and a chance to introduce the concept to the public before extending it more widely. Prioritising areas frequented by more vulnerable members of society, like children or the elderly, or which could provide beneficial habitats for bees, pollinators and other species in the urban environment should be the priority in terms of limiting exposure, and are also easy ways of gaining public support for the policy. Excellent examples of this phased approach can be seen in the US where a number of regions have stopped the use of pesticides in their parks following comprehensive pilot schemes which started in small areas of parks and subsequently expanded²²

In order to be most effective, a phased approach should be accompanied by a clear and public commitment to the eventual complete cessation of pesticide use (or at the least a serious and meaningful reduction in their application).



Dealing with contentious issues

Cost

“A willingness to make a decision that will have long term positive benefits rather than just looking to the short term. In this case the decision to invest in the Foamstream system which in the short term had serious cost implications but in the long term will both save the Council money and help to ensure a healthy, safe environment for the residents and visitors to Glastonbury Town.”
Glastonbury: a pesticide-free case study, 2015

Cost is of course a serious issue for every council in the UK; it comes up time and time again as an obstacle to adopting a pesticide-free regime. However, it is important to remember that pesticides are not free and councils spend significant sums of money purchasing and applying them. Therefore, in the first instance, it would be of use to audit your spending on pesticides. Don't forget to include anything your contractors (and sub-contractors) are spending before you make a cost comparison with non-chemical alternatives.

The cost of alternative approaches can undoubtedly be an issue. However, with advances in technology and availability of an increasing variety of non-chemical alternatives, costs of non-chemical controls are predicted to come down and, in most cases, become comparable to a pesticide regime.

Councils that have gone pesticide-free have also found that, after the initial outlay for a new system which can exceed the allocated budget, the costs have reduced over time to equal or even come in lower than a pesticide regime. This was the case in Glastonbury – the first town in the UK to ban the use of glyphosate – where the council invested in its own Foamstream system. They undertook some cost comparisons (see table) which showed that glyphosate was only marginally cheaper than hot water treatment. Hot foam came out as significantly cheaper than using glyphosate if the cost of the initial purchase of the equipment was taken out of the equation. Glastonbury Council is currently looking at the options for hiring the equipment out to other neighbouring parishes in order to recoup some of the initial cost outlay. It is also estimates that over the long term the cost savings will increase.

In fact, towns and cities that have gone pesticide-free all report that their weed and pest control requirements significantly diminish once non-chemical approaches have had a season or two to get on top of the problem. For example, in Seattle, where they have been working to reduce the use of pesticides in their parks since the 1970s, they have successfully reduced the number of man hours and subsequently costs for pesticide application.²³ Similarly in the city of Ghent in Belgium, which has been pesticide-free for 20 years, the amount of labour used for maintaining the parks has been significantly reduced since switching away from pesticides, saving the city money.²⁴

The long view is important. Ultimately, it comes down to balancing the benefits against the costs. There are numerous non-financial benefits to going pesticide-free, and these should be weighed against, and factored into, any evaluation of the costs of switching to non-chemical approaches.

New and innovative funding strategies are also available to help councils recoup the costs of buying the equipment needed for non-chemical approaches. Options to consider include: sharing the initial cost of the machine with one or more adjacent council; getting a local company to 'sponsor' the ' machine by covering the cost of purchase; hiring the equipment out to neighbouring councils or local land managers; getting the council's contractor to buy the machine. These options are made possible by the fact that, unlike glyphosate, many of the new non-chemical approaches such as hot foam systems can be used in all weather conditions. Councils don't tend to need more than fifty days per year of use so the machine is available to be hired out to, or shared with, others the remainder of the time.

Method	Cost per linear metre
Hand Weeding by contractor	£00.32
Hot water treatment by contractor	£00.26
Glyphosate treatment by contractor	£00.23
Foamstream factoring in costs of diesel, foam, in-house application, van and water. Excluding initial cost of equipment	£00.07



“ Councils that have gone pesticide-free find that the cost of non-chemical approaches reduces over time to equal, or come in lower, than using pesticides.”

Effectiveness

Concerns about the effectiveness of non-chemical approaches are understandable. However, the new systems that are coming into operation are just as effective as chemical controls and make it possible to maintain current levels of weed control in your area. Of course, the effectiveness of each method will vary depending on the local context and environment and, in most cases, there won't be one silver bullet to replace pesticides. Instead, a suite of different approaches will be required. PAN UK is keen to work directly with councils and other land managers to devise bespoke strategies for ending pesticide use tailored to fit their local context.

Again this is an area that requires long-term thinking. There may, in the short term, be some increased 'weediness' while new approaches bed in. Communicating with the public during this phase is crucial so that they are not put off during the initial phase.

Invasive species

This is a serious concern for local authorities and green space managers as there are legal requirements and health and safety issues that mean invasive species such as Japanese knotweed and giant hogweed need to be controlled and eradicated. If invasive species are not managed responsibly, it is possible that under the Infrastructure Act 2015 a species control order could be handed to the land owner which could incur significant costs. Similarly with plants such as giant hogweed, which pose the potential to harm the public there is an obvious necessity to ensure that they are eradicated.

There are non-chemical alternatives available such as electronic control systems that kill stems and roots instantly. However, if the council does plan to continue using pesticides to deal with invasive species then a technique that keeps the use of herbicides to a minimum, such as stem injection, should be employed. Stem injection can be used on Japanese knotweed and other hollow stemmed invasive species. Since the herbicide is injected directly into the stem, rather than being applied by a foliar spray, it reduces the amount of pesticides being used and the possibility of any spray drift onto adjacent areas. A number of companies currently provide stem injection systems in the UK and offer training courses on its use.^{25 26}



What support can PAN UK offer?

PAN UK is here to help you on your journey and we are keen to work closely with councils. Here is an overview of the assistance we can offer:

- ◆ Work with councillors and relevant council officers to create a bespoke pesticide policy for the borough.
- ◆ Run practical workshops and webinars to provide practical help as to how to reduce pesticide use in the borough.
- ◆ Help to design suitable trials and pilot schemes for non-chemical alternatives.
- ◆ Attend meetings alongside elected councillors in order to support their approaches to other councillors, council officers or the public.
- ◆ Provide sample council motions associated to going pesticide-free.
- ◆ Assist in publicising measures that are already being undertaken by the council to stop and reduce the use of pesticides within the borough.
- ◆ Provide suggestions for public information materials and messaging.
- ◆ Provide information and support in all areas related to going pesticide-free, including a toolkit specifically for councils.

Conclusions

In summary, going pesticide-free is desirable and achievable but not always straight forward. There are a lot of issues that need to be addressed and these will often be specific to the area that you are working in.

But for any pesticide-free plan to work there are three key requirements:

- ◆ Support from the public
- ◆ Political support from the councillors
- ◆ A willingness to think long-term

The final piece of advice is to make it clear what you are doing and why to all that need to know. This includes councillors and council officers but most importantly the general public. Local residents can be your greatest ally, so communicating effectively with them is crucial.

Good luck and please do keep us informed of your progress. PAN UK can be contacted at;

- pesticide-free@pan-uk.org
- **01273 964230** - ask for a member of the Pesticide-Free Towns team.



TOOLKIT

Pesticide policies

Pesticide policies vary considerably from council to council. However, despite the urgent need for transparency driven by rising levels of public concern, few councils currently have a comprehensive pesticide policy.

Every council should be aiming to develop and implement a clear and comprehensive pesticide policy which covers all the various areas and ways in which pesticides are used by the council and its contractors, as well as the actions being taken to reduce pesticide use.

Your policy should provide an overall roadmap for how the council plans to go pesticide-free. In particular, it should include (but not be limited to);

- ◆ Where and how the council has historically used pesticides
- ◆ The times and location of any ongoing pesticide application
- ◆ The rationale for going pesticide-free, including what you hope to achieve and an outline of the benefits for the public and wildlife
- ◆ Details on any reductions in pesticide use that have already been achieved and what alternative methods are being employed
- ◆ Plans for trialling pesticide-free approaches including details of the trial location area, what non-chemical alternatives are being tried and for how long, indicators for evaluating the success of the trials
- ◆ Communication plan for engaging with the public and other stakeholders

Here are two councils' current pesticide policies. They both happen to be from London councils but still provide examples that can be applied elsewhere:

1. The London Borough of Tower Hamlets provides a comprehensive parks policy which clearly lays the rationale for reducing pesticide use.

“Policy on the use of pesticides

The Parks and Open Spaces Service has been moving away from using chemicals wherever practical, replacing their use with cultural and manual methods. Pesticides are no longer used in Green Flag Park sites or play grounds, except where pesticides offer the only effective option such as in the treatment of some persistent weeds. The council no longer uses chemicals to control plant diseases (other than on fine turf areas) preferring to plant resistant species and improve its plant maintenance regimes.

In non-Green Flag sites, specialist trained contractors are employed to control weeds in selected situations. There is no blanket application of spray. Individual weeds are sprayed on their leaves with a contact herbicide that moves through the plant to kill it. This means that only areas with current growth are treated. This restricts applications to lightly trafficked paved areas. A maximum of three applications are made each year. In exceptional circumstances a residual herbicide (one that stays in the soil surface for several months) may be used to provide control in known problem areas, though the emphasis remains on the reduction of usage of this type of herbicide.

The borough occasionally has infestations of the Browntail moth. The caterpillars of this species of moth have fine hairs that can cause irritation or occasionally more serious reactions in humans. Where infestations are found, they are pruned out and the arisings disposed of; pesticides are no longer used to treat this problem.

Some pesticides are used on the council's four bowling greens to maintain the fine grass surface that is required for this sport,



including fungicides to control turf diseases and lumbricides to reduce worm casts and prevent root damage by leather jacket larvae. In these locations our trained greenkeepers use their experience to ensure that treatments are kept to a minimum and are carried out in a safe and timely way.

Rats and other pests are monitored and outbreaks controlled only as and when necessary by the council's pest control service.²⁷

- The London Borough of Haringey has adopted a fairly comprehensive policy. While it unfortunately fails to set an aspiration to reduce or end pesticide use, it does at least outline how, why, where and when the council's contractor treats weeds with herbicides. With regard to the use of potentially harmful chemicals, transparency is the very least that the public should expect.

"Weeds

A weed is commonly known as 'any undesirable or troublesome plant, especially one that grows profusely where it is not wanted'. As much as we like to see open green spaces full of plant life, we don't want plants growing between paving slabs or along the edge of the road.

The number of weeds growing increases throughout the months of spring due to the increase in temperature and sunlight.

Weed removal

At the end of April (weather permitting) Veolia take steps to remove weeds and prevent growth ahead of the summer.

To remove the weeds, a herbicide is applied to the areas of growth which kills the weeds. Once the weeds have turned brown - which should take approximately two weeks - they are manually scraped out of the ground to prevent re-growth.

When does the weed spraying take place

- ◆ **First treatment** – April to May
 - ◆ **Second Treatment** – July to August
 - ◆ **Third treatment** – October to November
- Veolia Environmental Services operates a flexible system and will conduct monitoring to take weather variations into account. They work to ensure that the weeds are successfully removed whilst minimising the use of herbicides

Weed spraying methods

There are three methods used to apply the herbicide:

1. Application using an Intelligent Technology Systems - this looks like a ride-on lawn mower
2. Vehicle Mounted Sprayer Herbicide Application - this looks like a street cleansing vehicle
3. Knapsack Herbicide Application - this looks like a backpack

Herbicide and application

- ◆ The herbicide we use is a non-hazardous product and is suitable to be used externally
- ◆ Herbicides will not be applied in residential areas before 8am (after 9am in the vicinity of schools and similar properties). Spraying will normally be completed by 4.30pm (3.30pm in the vicinity of schools and similar properties)
- ◆ Nearby watercourses, drains, other environmental factors and neighbouring properties are taken into account when spraying takes place

Weed Spraying timetable

We will update with the new weed spraying schedule when available.

For more information please contact Veolia:

- ◆ **Tel:** 020 8885 7700
- ◆ **Email:** enquiries.haringey@veolia.com²⁸



TOOLKIT

Trialling of non-chemical alternatives

Switching to a pesticide-free regime is not something that can happen overnight. It is essential that efficient, properly conducted trials be carried out in order to find the best solution for your specific situation, to build public support for the switch, and to identify and develop solutions to any potential problems.

The design of the trial is of paramount importance in order to ascertain what is possible, determine effectiveness of controls, to examine costs and to make it possible for you to report back on its success in detail to the council. In contrast, a badly planned trial that is 'designed to fail' can provide opponents of reducing pesticide use with useful fodder for resisting change so it is very important to get it right.

PAN UK is able to assist and advise on how to design and carry out an effective trial on non-pesticide alternatives in your area. Please contact us at pesticide-free@pan-uk.org to discuss your needs.

No two councils will have the exact same requirements and variations in environment and geography will mean that the approach to controlling weeds and pests needs to be site-specific. Another factor to consider is who undertakes the work; will it be conducted by an in-house team, or contracted out? You may need to work with your current contractor or discuss options with other contractors about how they operate and whether they can deliver a pesticide-free control system. Despite these contextual differences, there are some actions that should be taken when designing any effective trial:

1. Undertake a full audit of your current system, where spraying takes place, how frequent the applications are and why these areas need to be sprayed
2. Look at the locations that are being treated and note the different types of area; for example, rural roads and paths, parks and green spaces, old cobbled streets, modern paved areas such as shopping centres, areas of housing such as estates, etc.
3. Choose a selection of areas for the trial that best reflects the various types of location currently being treated.
4. Look at the variety of non-chemical treatment options that are available. Details of these are given earlier in this document.
5. Document the areas being trialled before treatment with photographs to show the level of weed growth and to identify the species of weeds being treated.
6. Within each area, or area type, organise for treatments to be applied at the same time under the same conditions on different parts of the area.
7. One part of the area should be left untreated as a control.
8. Document the area immediately after treatment with photographs.
9. Ensure that the trial areas and different treatment areas are mapped accurately to allow for proper assessment of the effectiveness of the treatments over the following weeks.
10. Return to the treatment areas on a regular basis over at least a 12 week period to assess regrowth and effectiveness of the treatments. These site visits should ideally be carried out on a fortnightly basis. At each visit, take photographs of the treated areas.
11. Your final assessment should be a full summary of how the trial was conducted, which treatments were used, why the areas for the trial were chosen and be accompanied by an assessment of the effectiveness of the treatments accompanied by the photographic evidence you have gathered.
12. Make an economic assessment of the treatments. This can best be carried out in consultation with the contractor or supplier of the trial equipment. However, there are many things that need to be factored in when



making an assessment including (but not limited to);

- a. Staff time
 - b. Material costs
 - c. Staff training for both herbicide use and any required for non-chemical alternatives
 - d. Time lost for spraying due to weather conditions
13. Also record benefits – e.g. ability to conduct operations in poor weather (e.g. rain) not having to delay/reschedule and incur additional costs for staff down time;
 14. Record public feedback – how was it received by residents?

Keeping the public informed

Keeping the public informed about what you are doing is an important element of any plan to go pesticide-free. As mentioned earlier in this document, there are a number of instances where communicating with the public can really help you achieve your objectives. They are as follows;

Prior to adopting any plan

There may well be a great deal of public concern about the use of pesticides in your area, with campaigns and petitions running. Many councils are already taking action to minimise pesticide use but are not communicating this to the public. If you are already reducing the use of pesticides do tell the public what actions you have taken and encourage them to support you. Notices on your council website or specific department website or in the local media can be effective outlets for such information. You could also consider holding a public consultation on the issue to hear directly from residents.



TOOLKIT

In areas that are already pesticide-free

In areas, such as parks, where you have already stopped using pesticides letting the public know will give them confidence that you are serious about reducing their exposure to potentially harmful chemicals. This can be done very simply by putting up a 'Pesticide-Free Zone' sign. You can download the sign for free from the PAN UK website at: <http://www.pan-uk.org/pesticide-free/>

Once a decision has been taken to go pesticide-free

Following the decision to transition to a pesticide-free approach, the public should be informed. This is a good news story and an opportunity to spread a positive message about your work. The public is unlikely to read the minutes of the council meeting where the decision was made so an article in the local press and an announcement on your website are good ways to spread the message.

During trials of non-chemical control methods

This is the most critical time to engage the public. During the trials it is likely that there will be a great deal of attention focussed on the trial area. The public may see unfamiliar machines, hand weeding, spraying with acetic acid and weeds growing in the locations that have been allocated as control areas and therefore not treated. There are likely to be a lot of questions from curious residents so getting in first with comprehensive information on what is going on and why will head off these inquiries and save you time.

Information on the different systems being trialled, what they are and how they work, as well as a rationale for why some areas are being left untreated is all important to include. A map of the areas that are part of the trial will also be a useful inclusion.

Once again, signs in the trial areas that explain what's happening are a way of keeping residents informed, as is information on your website and in the local media.

“ Keeping the public informed is a vital part of going pesticide-free. Local residents can be your greatest ally.”

Once the scheme has been adopted and is rolled out

This is the time to announce that your town or city is pesticide-free. Make a big splash, perhaps have an event and invite the media. Tell the world about your good news and blow your own trumpet. Place signs around the town; use it as an advertisement for the excellent work the council is doing.

If there is a need to control invasive species using pesticides

This is a difficult area and it can, if not handled properly, undermine confidence in the good work that you are doing. It is important to explain clearly to the public that you are required to remove invasive species and that you have chosen to continue to use pesticide to do so. Make sure to tell the public that you are combatting invasive species using the smallest amount of pesticides possible and in the least harmful way. Using signage to inform people in advance and during invasive species control will help to reassure the public that you are not rolling back the pesticide-free approach.



Council Motions

Motions can be useful tools for getting council support for going pesticide-free. Any member of the council can introduce a Motion to be debated and voted on. This was the path taken by Brighton & Hove council. A Motion was put forward by a councillor which was then discussed at a full council meeting and subsequently adopted by a unanimous council vote, thus becoming official council policy.

Whilst council officers are not able to submit a Motion, they can still demonstrate their department's support for the objectives by working with elected councillors to input into the contents. Relevant council officers are also sometimes able to be present in order to give supporting evidence when the Motion is debated.

Motions can be as detailed or as general as is thought necessary by the councillor making the submission. There is no one-size-fits-all approach and motions will differ depending on local circumstances. Some examples of Motions are given below;

Notice of Motion to Brighton & Hove Council – “Council resolves to:

1. *Request the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee to request officers to use the opportunity of the end of the current weed spraying contract in April 2017 to end the use of Glyphosate in our city; and*
2. *To request that the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee gives consideration to trying non-chemical and mechanical alternatives during the testing period due to start in July this year and asks officers to inform Members of the Committee as to which alternatives are being trialled (by its meeting on 28th June) and report on the progress of those trials to the same Committee at its meeting on 29th November this year.”*

This was a fairly simple, straight-forward Motion outlining exactly what they wanted to see and including specific time frames for reporting on progress.

Notice of Motion to Oxford City Council

“This council notes that there is growing evidence that glyphosate is a higher health risk than previously assumed, and that the World Health Organisation has recently upgraded glyphosate to ‘probably carcinogenic to humans’, with growing understanding of the damages caused by other chemical weed killers and pesticides to health and the environment.*

It further notes that other local councils in Britain, Hammersmith & Fulham being the most recent, have already decided to ban the use of glyphosate and other chemicals from their own operations. This is in the wake of large cities all over the world - such as Chicago and Paris - who have already decided on a ban and the Netherlands and Denmark which have banned the use of glyphosate in urban areas.

Therefore this council resolves to/asks the CEB:

- 1) *Pledge to cut out the use of glyphosate completely, in all its in-house operations (including in Parks, and Streetscene) within one year. The one exception would be in dealing with the Japanese knotweed, an aggressive invasive plant, currently without any other means of controlling. However, in this case glyphosate will only be stem-injected, rather than sprayed, to reduce its spread in the environment.*

* The WHO concluded there is sufficient evidence of carcinogenicity in experimental animals:
“The IARC Working Group that conducted the evaluation considered the significant findings from the US EPA report and several more recent positive results in concluding that there is sufficient evidence of carcinogenicity in experimental animals. Glyphosate also caused DNA and chromosomal damage in human cells, although it gave negative results in tests using bacteria.”



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- 2) *Consider the one year period until the ban takes effect as a testing period, during which the council will test non-chemical and mechanical alternatives.*
- 3) *Use the opportunity of the end of the current weed spraying contract in XXX 2018 to request the contractor ceases to use glyphosate, or find another local contractor who will abide by a glyphosate ban.*

This is a much longer motion which provides substantial background detail and sets out a timeframe for the listed actions. Although the Motion received significant support, it failed to garner a majority and so unfortunately was not passed by Oxford City Council.

Notice of Motion to Glastonbury Town Council

“With regard to the health and environmental risks associated with glyphosate, this Council requests that the subcontractors employed by Mendip District Council discontinue the use of ‘Glyphos’ and all products containing glyphosate in this town, in favour of a more environmentally friendly product or other solution, in line with our Environmental Charter.”

This short motion is extremely specific in its request to end the use of glyphosate but broad in terms of how the goal will be achieved. It was adopted by Glastonbury council which has ceased the use of glyphosate.

PAN UK has experience of working with councillors to draft suitable Motions and we are always happy to advise and assist. Given that Motions will be similar in many cases, as will the obstacles to their adoption by the full council, seeking advice from other councillors that have put forward Motions on pesticide use could be useful. PAN UK would be happy to put you in touch with others that are working on the same issue so that you can share experiences and knowledge. In the first instance please contact PAN UK at pesticide-free@pan-uk.org for more information.

Reports to council

Council officers are frequently asked to supply reports to council cabinet members, committees or the full council on subjects of interest to councillors who require more expert information. Reports can be requested purely for further information, in response to a public petition that has gained sufficient signatures to demand a response, or as supporting information prior to a debate and vote on a Motion that has been put forward to the council for consideration.

The following is an example of a report provided for a full meeting of Lewes Council by the Director of Service Delivery for Lewes District Council in response to a public petition calling for a pesticide-free Lewes.²⁹

The response itself is comprehensive and includes;

- ◆ An audit of current pesticide use
- ◆ An investigation of non-chemical alternatives including information on trials already under way
- ◆ The development of a pesticide reduction plan
- ◆ An examination of cost implications
- ◆ A risk assessment outlining possible implications involved with going pesticide-free

A report template for you to adapt and use can be downloaded from the PAN UK website.



Report provided to Lewes Council by Director of Service Delivery for Lewes District Council

Agenda Item No: 10
Report No: 69/17 Report
Title: Response to Petition – Pesticide-Free Lewes Report
To: Council Date: 10 May 2017
Cabinet Member: Cllr Linington
Ward(s) Affected: All
Report By: Ian Fitzpatrick, Director of Service Delivery
Purpose of Report: To respond to the petition submitted to Council on the 7th December 2016 regarding the use of pesticides in the Lewes District.

Officers Recommendation(s):

- 1 To note and debate the petition in line with the Council's petitions scheme.
- 2 To adopt the Pesticide Reduction Plan shown in paragraph 7.

1 Reasons for Recommendations

At the meeting on the 7 December 2016, Council received a petition from Cllr Carter and Mr Adams containing a combined total of over 1500 signatures. The petition stated:

“Stop spraying all toxic pesticides in Lewes District streets, parks, schools and public spaces. There is clear evidence that pesticides (such as the herbicide glyphosate) used for pest and weed control across Lewes District are causing declines in biodiversity and are harmful to human health, especially children. Our children need to be able to play safely in the parks of Lewes face down on the ground without fear of exposure to glyphosate and other potentially harmful chemicals. But it is not just children.

Everybody who lives, works, plays, visits or walks their dog anywhere in this beautiful district should have the right to enjoy the area without fear of coming into contact with unnecessary, toxic chemicals”.

In light of the number of signatures and in accordance with the Council's petitions scheme, it was agreed that the petition would be debated by the Council as an individual agenda item at a future Council meeting.

2 Information

- 2.1** The petition that has been received is requesting to stop the use of pesticides in streets, parks, schools and public spaces. It should be noted, however, that East Sussex County Council is responsible for the maintenance, and therefore pesticide use, within most schools and highways / streets.
- 2.2** The council currently has a policy, through its Pesticide Management Plan, which strictly limits the use of pesticides on council owned land. The term “pesticide” encompasses herbicides, insecticides, lumbricides, and pest control materials.
- 2.3** The council does not use any pesticides in designated children's play areas, and it does not use any residual herbicides. I.e. herbicides that are intended to stay in the ground to prevent further weed growth.
- 2.4** However, the council does use the herbicide Glyphosate for the control of weeds in hard surface pathways in recreation grounds and around our housing areas. This pesticide is applied by trained operatives in very small doses to each individual weed – it is not blanket sprayed across the entire hard surfaced area.



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- 2.5 The council also uses selective herbicides for the control of weeds in sports areas, such as bowling greens, cricket squares and football pitches, where it is important to keep a safe uniform and level playing surface.
- 2.6 The council takes biodiversity very seriously, and this year will be increasing the perennial wildflower areas across the district, to help provide additional food sources for butterflies and bees.

3 Pesticide-Free Campaign

- 3.1 There is currently a campaign, being led in the UK by PAN UK (Pesticides Action Network), to create pesticide-free towns across the country.
- 3.2 The reasons for wishing to go pesticide-free are numerous, but include:
 - (a) Contamination of local water supplies
 - (b) The potential impact of pesticides on human health, the environment, biodiversity and bees populations
 - (c) Public concern
- 3.3 In April 2015, the International Agency for Research on Cancer, part of the World Health Organisation, concluded that Glyphosate based weed killer was “probably carcinogenic to humans”. Other studies have linked glyphosate to birth defects and a rise in antibiotic resistance.
- 3.4 PAN UK have a “precautionary principle” that states that “When an activity raises threats of harm to human health or the environment, precautionary measures should be taken even if some of the cause and effect relationships are not fully established scientifically”. In other words, although some evidence against the use of pesticides appears inconclusive, it is far better to work towards using less or ideally no pesticides.
- 3.5 There are some areas where alternative weed control methods are not yet fully developed, such as the control of Knot weed, so a phased approach to pesticide reduction is required, rather than a complete overnight ban.

4 Glyphosate and the Law

- 4.1 All products containing Glyphosate have to be registered and approved by the European Pesticides Commission.
- 4.2 Glyphosate was re-registered and approved in June 2016, but for a limited period of 18 months (until the end of 2017).
- 4.3 As part of this approval extension, the Commission also presented some recommendations to be considered by member states. One of these recommendations was to “minimise the use of the substance (glyphosate) in public parks, public playgrounds and gardens”
- 4.4 There is the possibility that further restrictions or a total ban on Glyphosate may be brought in when the registration is reconsidered at the end of 2017. By reducing the reliance on the chemical now, we will be better prepared for any future changes.



5 Current Pesticide Use by LDC and possible alternatives

5.1 Pesticide usage at LDC

Pesticide	Purpose	Application	Area Used	Alternatives
Roundup Pro Biactive (Glyphosate)	Weed killing	Spot treatment	Paths and hard surfaces (not play areas)	Foamstream Hot Water Burning Manual weeding Vinegar
Mecoprop, Dicamba	Selected weedkilling	Spray	Sports pitches and bowling greens	None
Glyphosate	Knotweed control	Injected	Knotweed and other problem infestations weeds	None, although some control gained through electrocution method
Ferrox Sulphate	Moss Control	Spray	Fine turf	None – although cultural methods such as aeration can help reduce the need.
Azoxystrobin, Propiconazole	Fungicide	Spray	To control fungal attacks on fine sports turf	None – although cultural methods such as aeration can help reduce the need.

5.2 Alternatives to Chemical Weed Control

Method	Use	Advantages	Disadvantages
Hot Foam	Weeds in hard surfaces Moss on hard surfaces and play area safety surfacing, Grass growth around trees	Foam holds hot water against plant. Pesticide-free but uses plant oil extracts in foam. Can be used in all weather. Kills 95% of targeted weeds.	New technology – needs refinement. Expensive to purchase (£25,000+) Additional cost of plant oil extract, Diesel consumption and pollution
Hot Water / Steam	Weeds in hard surfaces, play area surfacing, graffiti removal, chewing gum removal.	Lower initial purchase cost.	Requires more treatments as heat is not held onto plant. Diesel consumption and pollution.
Propane / Flame gun	Weeds on hard surfaces	Relatively cheap to purchase	Health and Safety Risks (banned in the domestic market). Not particularly effective
Manual Weeding	Weeds in general	Very effective if done well. Low set up costs (excluding labour).	Very time consuming. Requires large amount of labour.
Vinegar	Weeds in hard surfaces	No licence required for application.	Has been trialled, but has not been effective. Strong smell, can give operator headache.

6 Trials of alternative weed control methods

- 6.1** Over the past 6 months, LDC have been trialling various types of alternative weed control, including hot foam and hot water systems
- 6.2** The developments of these systems are still in early stages, with no system providing an overall solution. Non chemical weed control will be more expensive than traditional chemical weed control, and costs may rise further if a ban on Glyphosate comes in, and demand for alternatives increase.
- 6.3** From the trials carried out by LDC, the Foamstream method of weed control, using hot foam, has been found to provide the best alternative weed control method. It is also very effective at cleaning off moss and algae from play area surfacing, and on hard surfaces such as tennis courts. One big advantage of Foamstream is that it can be used all year round, even in cold weather.



TOOLKIT

- 6.4** A number of other councils across the country are looking at reducing the amount of pesticides used, or going pesticide-free. These include Brighton and Hove City Council, London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham, Woking Borough Council and Edinburgh City Council.
- 6.5** Fareham Borough Council has recently purchased a Foamstream machine, and is currently training their staff in its use.
- 6.6** Support to the principle of reducing pesticide use has also been received from Lewes Town Council and Newhaven Town Council.

7 Pesticide Reduction Plan

- 7.1** Should Council decide to adopt a phased pesticide reduction plan, then it is proposed that the following proposal be supported:

Item	Proposal	Advantages / Disadvantages	Time Scale
Pesticide-Free Parks	To introduce Pesticide-Free Parks and Play Areas. These would be set areas where it is feasible to stop using pesticides completely*. For instance, Southover Grange Gardens is already a pesticide-free park. Other park areas across the district could be phased in	Park areas would have signage to promote them as pesticide-free parks and the council would benefit from good publicity. New pesticide-free parks could be introduced annually, assuming that they are suitable.	0-3 years
Weed spraying of hard surfaces using Glyphosate	To make use of a Foamstream machine to carry out the weed killing on all accessible paths and hard surfaces in parks, gardens and housing areas. The Foamstream machine would be supplied and operated by our grounds maintenance contractor. There would be no additional costs to LDC, as costs would be transferred by a contract variation from chemical weed control to Foamstream weed control.	LDC would have full use of a Foamstream machine, with all maintenance costs being absorbed by the contractor. In order to cover the cost of the machine, this agreement would need to be in place for the remaining term of the grounds maintenance agreement. Whilst the Foamstream machine is not being used on the LDC Contract, it can be used by LDC and the contractor to procure weed control work in other authorities. Limited pesticide application may still be required on areas where it is not feasible to use the Foamstream Machine.	1 year
Sports Turf Areas	For the control of a specific problem, such as Knot Weed control or stump removal, pesticides will have to be used until suitable alternatives are available.	Pesticides will still need to be used, although cultural and non pesticide alternatives will be used when and if they become available.	Review in year 1-2
Specific problem areas	For the control of a specific problem, such as Knot Weed control or stump removal, pesticides will have to be used until suitable alternatives are available.	LDC have an obligation to control Knot weed in certain areas, and Glyphosate treatment is the only viable control method. Application of the pesticide will be very specific, in the form of leaf application, injection or as eco – plugs, placed directly in the stump	
Pesticides Management Plan	To revise the LDC Pesticide Management Plan to include these proposals and to introduce a pesticide reduction policy.	LDC will commit to reduce the use of pesticides, whilst still allowing use where essential and where alternatives are not yet available.	To be submitted to Cabinet in May 2018

* Pesticides may have to be used for specific problems where there is no alternative, i.e. if Knotweed infestation became a problem.



8 Financial Appraisal

- 8.1** By working in partnership with our contractor, G. Burleys, there will be no additional costs to LDC by implementing this Pesticide Reduction policy.
- 8.2** There is currently an annual cost of £32,320 within our grounds maintenance to carry out weed killing on hard surfaces in parks, open spaces and housing areas.
- 8.3** The cost to provide and operate a Foamstream machine will be £24,828 per annum (includes machine, labour, trailer and vehicle).
- 8.4** If the policy is agreed, then a Variation to the contract will be issued to the contractor to change from pesticide use to using a Foamstream machine for the remaining term of the contract.
- 8.5** The balance of £7,492 per annum will be used for weed control in those areas that are inaccessible to the Foamstream machine.
- 8.6** By taking this option, LDC would not be liable for any maintenance costs or Vehicle and trailer costs, and would not need to find storage areas or pay for the machine when it is not being used.

9 Legal Implications

The current legal position regarding the use of glyphosate is set out in paragraph 4 above. Until the Great Repeal Bill is debated and enacted by the UK Parliament, it is not known whether the legal obligations regarding glyphosate under EU law will be incorporated into UK domestic law (whether in its original form or adapted) or repealed, as part of the process of the UK leaving the EU in 2019.

Date of legal advice: 29.3.17. Legal ref: 06213-LDC-OD

10 Risk Management Implications

I have completed a risk assessment. The following risks may arise if the recommendations are not implemented and I propose to mitigate these risks in the following ways:

Risk	Mitigation
There is a risk that at the end of 2017, registration of the pesticide Glyphosate will be removed.	If registration was removed, and these recommendations had been approved, then the Foamstream system could be used. If the recommendation were not approved, then there is likely to be a phasing in period of the ban on the use of Glyphosate. During this time, alternative weed control methods would have to be adopted. It should be noted that there is no indication at this time whether a ban will be introduced, or if registration of the product will be renewed.
Public opinion on the use of pesticides may grow with more publicity.	The use of pesticides would remain carefully controlled.

The following risks will arise if the recommendations are implemented and I propose to mitigate these risks in the following ways:



TOOLKIT

Risk	Mitigation
There is a risk that the “new technology” proves to be unreliable and therefore more expensive.	As the machinery is purchased by our contractor, these risks would transfer to them, with no liability with LDC.
To cover costs, the variation with our contractor needs to remain in place until the end of the contract term. There is a risk that if the contract term ended early, there would be an additional fee to pay.	It is very unlikely that the contract term would finish early. If this were the case, then this would form part of the overall contract termination negotiations.

11 Equality Screening

An Equality Analysis has been undertaken and the potential introduction of a pesticide reduction policy was found to have likely positive outcomes for all residents, but in particular for children and young people who may be more vulnerable to pesticide use.

12 Background Papers

None



ANNEX

Pesticides currently used in amenity applications

Pesticides currently used in amenity applications

The most recent survey of amenity pesticide use, undertaken by the Food and Environment Research Agency (FERA), covers the year 2016 and was published in April 2018.³⁰ It looks at both the quantitative and qualitative use of pesticides in the amenity sector.

Whilst the survey gives an interesting insight into the use of amenity pesticides, there are certain caveats that must be made clear when interpreting the data. Of the 1,100 amenity companies that were contacted, only around 10% responded. As a result, figures for pesticide usage in the report are almost certainly underestimated. Therefore, while the report is useful, it provides just a limited snapshot of pesticide use in a small portion of the amenity sector.

The report reveals that in 2016, there were:

- ◆ 38 different active substances used in the amenity sector. These 38 active substances will form the core ingredients of many different formulated products (i.e. branded products) which are what is ultimately used in UK towns and cities. As an example, glyphosate is an active substance which is found in hundreds of different formulated products, the most common of which is Roundup. Details of authorised products and active substances can be found via the Chemicals Regulation Directorate Plant Protection Products database (<https://secure.pesticides.gov.uk/pestreg/ProdSearch.asp>)
- ◆ 80 tonnes of active substance covering a treated area of 98,121 hectares were applied by those responding to the survey – as stated above this is an underestimation of the actual amount being used.
- ◆ The most widely used class of pesticides were herbicides, accounting for 98.8% of the total pesticides applied.
- ◆ Glyphosate was by far the most widely applied herbicide accounting for 77% of active substances applied – 61,249kg.

The following is a list of the active substances that were reported as being used in the survey;

- ◆ Herbicides
2,4-D, Acetic Acid, Aminopyralid, Asulam, Carfentrazone-ethyl, Citronella Oil, Clopyralid, Cycloxydim, Dicamba, Diflufenican, Ferrous Sulphate, Flazasulfuron, Florasulam, Fluroxypyr, Glufosinate-ammonium, Glyphosate, Isoxaben, MCPA, Mecoprop-p, Pinoxaden, Propaquizafop, Propyzamide
- ◆ Fungicides
Azoxystrobin, Bacillus subtilis, Carbendazim, Chlorothalonil, Fludioxonil, Fluopyram, Fosetyl-aluminium, Iprodione, Prochloraz, Propiconazole, Pyraclostrobin, Tebuconazole, Trifloxystrobin
- ◆ Insecticides
Diflubenzuron, Imidacloprid
- ◆ Growth Regulators
Trinexapac-ethyl



PAN UK has examined the health effects associated with the fifteen most frequently used active substances in the amenity sector and presented the findings in the table below. The classifications are taken from a wide variety of sources and different regulatory authorities around the world.³¹

Active	KG applied in 2016	Use	Acutely Toxic	Carcinogen	Developmental or Reproductive Toxin	Endocrine Disruptor
Glyphosate	61,249	Herbicide		Probable		
2,4-D	4,757	Herbicide		Probable		
MCPA	3,983	Herbicide	Yes	Possible		
Mecoprop-P	3,929	Herbicide	Yes	Possible		
Triclopyr	1,610	Herbicide				
Diflufenican	1,212	Herbicide				
Fluroxypyr	891	Herbicide				
Dicamba	685	Herbicide	Slight		Yes	
Trinexapac-ethyl	177	Growth Regulator				
Aminopyralid	158	Herbicide				
Iprodione	141	Fungicide		Yes		Suspected
Flazasulfuron	131	Herbicide				
Ferrous sulphate	130	Herbicide				
Clopyralid	99	Herbicide	Yes			
Azoxystrobin	92	Fungicide				



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- 2 Pesticides: Parliament to set up special committee <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20180118IPR92014/pesticides-parliament-to-set-up-special-committee>
- 3 France declares public spaces pesticide free – private gardens will follow <https://www.gardenorganic.org.uk/news/france-declares-public-spaces-pesticide-free>
- 4 A Generation in Jeopardy – How Pesticides are Undermining Children’s Health and Intelligence – 2013 – Pesticide Action Network North America – <http://www.panna.org/resources/publication-report/report-generation-jeopardy>
- 5 WHO International Programme on Chemical Safety – Highly Hazardous Pesticides – http://www.who.int/ipcs/assessment/public_health/pesticides/en/
- 6 “Wingspread Conference on the Precautionary Principle” 26/01/1998 <http://www.sehn.org/wing.html>
- 7 European Commission – Some Facts About Glyphosate – https://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/pesticides/glyphosate_en
- 8 Monograph on Human Toxicity of Glyphosate – International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) – March 2015 – <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol112/mono112-10.pdf>
- 9 Plantlife’s campaign to protect wildflowers and nature on roadside verges – <http://plantlife.love-wildflowers.org.uk/roadvergecampaign>
- 10 “Diffuse Pollution of Water by Agriculture” – PostNote Number 478 October 2014 – Houses of Parliament Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology
- 11 UK National Action Plan for the Sustainable Use of Pesticides – https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/221034/pb13894-nap-pesticides-20130226.pdf
- 12 UK National Pollinator Strategy – <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-pollinator-strategy-for-bees-and-other-pollinators-in-england>
- 13 Providing and protecting habitat for wild birds – DEFRA – 25/02/2016 – <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/providing-and-protecting-habitat-for-wild-birds>
- 14 The EU Water Framework Directive – http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-framework/index_en.html
- 15 The UK 25 Year Environment Plan https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/693158/25-year-environment-plan.pdf
- 16 Polling commissioned by PAN UK and SumOfUs and conducted by GQR Research, September 2017, <https://gqrr.app.box.com/s/0ddbifc853j9k1t1sbnvuc1crvxw8zbc>
- 17 Pollinators Decline in Numbers – Royal Horticultural Society – <https://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/profile?pid=528>
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- 19 The European Citizen’s Initiative on Glyphosate – <http://ec.europa.eu/citizens-initiative/public/initiatives/successful/details/2017/000002>
- 20 Volunteer in the Community Garden, Regent’s Park – <https://www.royalpark.org.uk/get-involved/volunteer-with-us/volunteering-opportunities/volunteer-and-volunteer-co-ordinator-in-the-community-wildlife-garden,-regents-park>
- 21 Vinegar; an Alternative to Glyphosate? – University of Maryland – 2017 – https://extension.umd.edu/sites/default/files/_docs/programs/ipmnet/Vinegar-AnAlternativeToGlyphosate-UMD-Smith-Fiola-and-Gill.pdf
- 22 Pesticide-Free Parks – Portland Department of Parks and Recreation – <http://www.portlandoregon.gov/parks/47501>
- 23 Pesticide Reduction – Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation – <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/about-us/policies-and-plans/pesticide-reduction>
- 24 Pesticide-Free Towns – Pesticide Action Network Europe – <http://www.pesticide-free-towns.info/stories-principles>
- 25 Stem Injection Kits (other sources are available) – <https://www.amenity.co.uk/japanese-knotweed-control/stem-injection-kits.html>
- 26 Stem Injection Training Course – <http://www.mortontraining.co.uk/courses/stem-injection/>
- 27 Tower Hamlets Council Policy on Pesticides – www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/ignl/leisure_and_culture/parks_and_open_spaces/Park_development_and_improvements/policy_on_the_use_of_pesticide.aspx
- 28 Haringey Council Pesticide Policy – <http://www.haringey.gov.uk/parking-roads-and-travel/roads-and-streets/road-care-and-maintenance/weed-spraying>
- 29 Response to Petition – Pesticide-Free Lewes Report – 10/05/2017 – <https://tinyurl.com/ycfutzpz>
- 30 Amenity Pesticide Use Survey 2016 – Fera – April 2018 – <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/pesticide-usage-survey-amenity-pesticides-in-the-uk-2016>
- 31 Chemicals Regulation Directorate database in approved pesticide products – http://www.pesticideinfo.org/Search_Chemicals.jsp



Who are Pesticide Action Network UK?

PAN UK is the only UK charity focused on tackling the problems caused by pesticides and promoting safe and sustainable alternatives.




We campaign for change in policy and practice in the UK and overseas, contributing our wealth of scientific and technical expertise to reducing the impact of harmful pesticides and pushing for a pesticide-free future.

Find out more about our work at:
www.pan-uk.org/pesticide-free

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**PESTICIDE
ACTION
NETWORK UK**



Pesticide Free – three year plan

This is a rough outline of what a three year Pesticide-Free plan could look like in order to deliver an effective programme of pesticide reduction and eventual cessation of use across your city or borough. It has the council as the driving force but looks to involve multiple stakeholders to broaden the initiative and make it as comprehensive as possible.

The idea is that this could form the basis of a policy document for your council.

Overall objectives

- To reduce and ultimately end the use of all pesticides (for the most part herbicides) by the council, its officers and contractors on all land that is directly or indirectly under its control.
- Bring in other key stakeholders to follow suit in ending the use of pesticides on land under their control.
- Encourage the general public to stop the use of pesticides in gardens, allotments and other areas.
- To make your area a Pesticide-Free City to add to its green sustainability credentials.

The pathway to Pesticide-Free

It is not envisaged that pesticide use can be stopped overnight – in fact that notion is, in many cases, a hindrance to achieving that goal.

The journey towards becoming pesticide-free requires a phased approach under which pesticide use is gradually but steadily reduced until it is eventually stopped entirely. The time frame can vary according to circumstances but, in general, a three-year phase out period is realistic for most councils. Some of course will wish to deliver the objectives in less time which would be welcomed and encouraged. As increasing numbers of councils in the UK go pesticide-free, timescales may well become shorter as local authorities are able to share experiences and best practice. In addition, non-chemical technologies are constantly evolving and improving, making the transition to being pesticide-free increasingly easier. PAN UK has produced a comprehensive guide for local authorities that looks at some of the key issues related to going pesticide-free. It covers areas such as designing trials of non-chemical alternatives and bespoke pesticide policies, and dealing with contentious issues such as invasive species and cost implications. 'Going Pesticide-Free: A Guide for Local Authorities' can be found at the PAN UK website at pan-uk.org/pesticide-free.

This outline below provides an overview of a three year plan that a town or city may follow to reduce, and ultimately end, pesticide use:

Throughout the entire duration of the plan, communication with the public about what you are trying to achieve and why, progress made, problems and successes is vital. There are useful guidelines for achieving good public communication in the PAN UK Toolkit for Local Authorities - <http://www.pan-uk.org/pesticide-free-workshop-resources/>

Year 1

It's vital that councils have in place a clear strategy for going pesticide-free that sets a clear direction of travel and allows all actors (concerned citizens, local businesses, other land managers) to play their part. It will help not only those involved in reducing the use of pesticide but also assist residents and the wider public to understand the benefits of going pesticide-free.

Devising, and ideally publishing a strategy, is a vital first step and something that PAN UK can help with. Other measures to be implemented in year 1 are as follows:

- Undertake an audit of current pesticide / herbicide use across all sectors including, but not limited to, parks and cemeteries, streets, housing and schools.
- Devise a bespoke pesticide policy which sets out clearly the conditions under which pesticides are being used in its area – how, where, when and why, and what measures are being taken to end or reduce pesticide use.
- Publicise the initiative through local media and other channels so the public are aware of what is planned for the coming three years
- End the use of herbicides in public parks and green spaces by the end of year one
- Begin at least one trial of alternatives, and ideally more, for hard surface areas such as streets and pavements
- Initiate a stakeholder forum for land managers from across the city / borough. These can be from hospitals and other medical facilities, schools and universities, retail and shopping areas etc (see below for more detail)

Stakeholder Forum

The stakeholder forum is an important part of the process that will help the council meet its pesticide-free objective in a number of ways;

- Draw in other land managers in the area so that the council will not be operating in isolation;
- An opportunity to share experiences and learnings with others who might already be successfully implementing pesticide reduction strategies
- An opportunity to come together to understand and overcome opportunities and obstacles around going pesticide-free
- It presents the possibility of cost sharing– this could be particularly useful in terms of initial capital outlay for non-chemical alternative technologies

The Forum should meet regularly and have a clear agenda for discussions.

Year 2

This is the time to consolidate the work of year one and take things further.

- Commit to halving the kilometres of streets and pavements that are sprayed by the end of year two.
- End the use of pesticides / herbicides in areas of housing stock and other properties owned or controlled by the council

- Working in partnership with members of the stakeholder forum, ensure that other land managers are working to reduce and ultimately stop the use of pesticides / herbicides in areas outside council control
- Ensure there is an ongoing dialogue with the public about progress of the project
- Organise a pesticide amnesty for the public to return unused, unwanted or obsolete pesticide products

Year 3

The final year and time to deliver the final objective

- End the use of pesticides / herbicides on the remaining kilometres of streets and pavements
- Continue to encourage other key stakeholders to follow suit on land and areas under their control
- Organise a public event to announce your success
- Write up your experiences including problems overcome, successes, involvement of stakeholders and anything else that is pertinent. This will be a valuable resource for other areas wanting to adopt a similar approach
- On the back of your work launch a public campaign to encourage home owners, amateur gardeners and allotment holders to follow suit in reducing and stopping their use of pesticides / herbicides.

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New Weed Control Regime in Wheldrake Ward 2022

In the Spring of 2022 Wheldrake Ward accepted the offer to become a pilot ward for cutting the number of glyphosate sprays from three to two times a year. The village of Elvington went further. Elvington parish council opted to cut glyphosate spraying altogether, to protect bees, pollinators and biodiversity at large.

As part of the pilot scheme, as ward councillor, I offered each of the parish councils up to £850 from ward funding to purchasing mechanical weed clearing equipment to help address any problems if or when they occurred.

Wheldrake Parish Council did not respond. Deighton and Naburn parish councils declined the opportunity. Elvington responded positively but over the course of the year struggled to identify what equipment they might purchase to do the job. I bought a weed brush, personally, in order to understand how mechanical solutions might work and how effective they might be.

Through the year I have monitored the level of weed growth, trialled mechanical treatment of weeds, and requested officer help to remove dead vegetation from kerbsides in order to remove the most obvious encouragement for weed growth. I have trialled strimmers and a non-professional weed brush in a number of highway locations and spoken at some length with equipment manufacturers.

I have also looked at the ways in which other European countries are moving away from glyphosates and weed killers and how they are communicating this change and enlisting the support of local residents. In particular, attention is drawn to the 'Trottoir Fleuri' (flowering pavements) initiatives in dozens of French cities, including [Blois](#) and Tours and Talence.



The IMPORTANCE of SWEEPING

On 7th March I approached officers and raised the issue of running a sweeper along the kerbs to clear away leaf litter and other organic detritus as we clearly had a major problem before the pilot had even begun. Plant detritus was sitting on many street kerbs, decomposing slowly and ready to provide a perfect medium for weeds to grow in. There were already weeds growing in this detritus in March.

As we look to reduce the use of pesticides and glyphosate across the city, there seems to be very simple and straightforward things we can do to reduce the presence of weeds along our streets. The Pesticide Action Network who gave a presentation to a meeting in March (organised by Cllr Kallum Taylor and attended by city councillors, community groups and parish councils) stressed the importance of ensuring roads were well swept before the growing season began.



Officers explained that the council has 2 x road sweepers and 2 x path sweepers that we use across the entire city. In relation to the road sweepers then they will sweep along a channel but tend to sweep where there is a kerb line to sweep against.

I was told in March that CYC was currently undertaking a review of sweeping and that this would involve seeing a number of sweepers (including demonstrations of the electric sweepers coming to the market). I hope that this process is informing the council's replacement programme over the next 24 months and believe all councillors would benefit from an update.



Other councils, including Cheltenham Borough Council have noted the importance of sweeping properly.

"Last year we made a commitment to reduce the amount of weed spraying by half," they say on their website. Key to their approach is intensive cleaning: hoeing, sweeping and power washing.



◀ 11th March 2022
leaf litter along
kerbs in Wheldrake



▲ 11th March 2022 - leaf litter and detritus on Greengales Lane, Wheldrake

Ribble Valley Council use four additional mechanical sweepers during October to February each year to assist with the removal of fallen leaves.



Lambeth Council removes weeds along kerb channels with mechanical brooms, employing manual sweepers to weed the pavements, alongside their litter-picking duties as time allows.

▼ End of March 2022 - Main St, Wheldrake and other kerbs have been swept



MECHANICAL WEED CONTROL

White House Grove, Elvington (south side)

Over the period of the trial I monitored weed growth along kerbs and cut them back with a cheap mechanical weed brush. The key thing to note is that most of these weeds were growing where there was leaf litter and detritus.

Clearing the vegetation took just a couple of minutes. The photos show that by early November the weeds had not quite grown back to the state they were in July.



◀ 14th July 2022
BEFORE
weed brushing



◀ 14th July 2022
AFTER
weed brushing



◀ 3rd November 2022

14th July 2022 ►
BEFORE
weed brushing



14th July 2022 ►
AFTER
weed brushing



3rd November 2022 ►



MECHANICAL WEED CONTROL

White House Grove, Elvington (north side)

◀ 14th July 2022
BEFORE
weed brushing



◀ 14th July 2022
AFTER
weed brushing



◀ 14th November 2022





White House Grove, Elvington (north side)



7th Sept 2022 before weed brushing
3rd Nov 2022



It was very clear for my efforts that cheap trimmers and weed brushes, while able to remove weeds from the kerbs, are not able to deal with weeds growing on the tactile drop kerbs.

There are however a variety of weed brushes that can do this work, and many manufacturers (as-motor.uk, Kerstenuk.com and others) are happy to organise tests to check on suitability.

In a climate of continuing local government cuts, might CYC work with parish councils and community groups to assist in the purchasing of machines that could be used by those groups / organisations as part of their grass cutting and maintenance programmes, taking the burden away from the city council?



DOING THINGS DIFFERENTLY

It is not the case that everyone views wildflowers and plants as pests that must be eradicated at every turn. While local authorities clearly have to ensure that vegetation does not damage or destroy infrastructure, there are places where wild plant can grow with causing damage. Allow wildflowers to grow encourages biodiversity and protect pollinators.



The French Trottoir Fleuri (flowering pavements) initiative involves local residents and uses [videos](#) to focus minds on the beneficial biodiversity impact of wild flowers growing along the city's streets. For example in Blois 15 streets have been designated Trottoirs Fleuri.

Street posters explain what plants are growing and how they benefit the environment. The project is a partnership with a national conservation organisation. 307 plant species have been identified.

The city council invites residents to subscribe to the project and give them wildflowers seeds to sow along the pavement edge. Over 500 residents right across the city from the centre to the suburbs have joined the programme.

In other words city councils have a role to enhance biodiversity and to encourage a shift away from the assumption that a dead street is a pretty street.

Along with wildflower verges and the transforming the city walls into a summer meadow, a new pavement management approach would allow the city of York to become a real leader on biodiversity. Community groups, residents, our universities and conservation organisations could help make this happen.





RUE DU PRÊCHE

POUR UNE VILLE FLEURIE ET ÉCOLOGIQUE

307

AVEZ-VOUS REMARQUÉ CERTAINES PLANTES DANS CETTE RUE ?

Une étude réalisée par la Ville de Tours et l'INSA - Ecole de paysage a permis d'identifier en cours d'été une dizaine de rues de la ville.

Le but est de favoriser la végétation et à aller à la rencontre des habitants et à leur faire connaître leur rapport à la présence de ces espèces.

LES BIENFAITS D'UNE VÉGÉTATION SPONTANÉE

Cette démarche contribue à attirer de nombreux insectes pollinisateurs comme les abeilles sauvages et les syrphes. Ces plantes servent d'habitat aux chenilles de certaines papillons comme le papillon du plantain et le papillon des verges, et leurs racines peuvent servir certains oiseaux comme le chardonneret élégant.



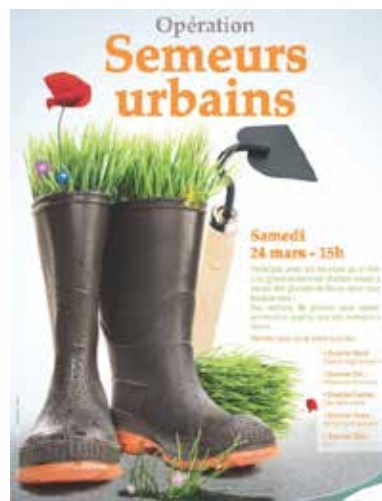
INSA



À FLEUR DE TROTTOIR

Fleurissons ensemble notre ville !

Inscription et renseignements sur tours.fr (rubrique nature et jardins) ou aflowerdetrottoir@ville-tours.fr



Opération Semeurs urbains

Samedi 24 mars - 15h

Participez avec les enfants de la ville à la plantation de fleurs et de légumes dans les rues de la ville.



Conclusions

Councils maintain the public realm on behalf of all their residents. Even in a world of continuous cuts to local government, we cannot be led by that minority of voices who value sterile public spaces at the expense of the natural world.

In his speech to OSCE (Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe) on 5th October 2022, Justin Addison - Second Secretary at Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office - said that: *“2022 is a critical year for biodiversity and our planet.”* A Natural History Museum report in May 2022 revealed that *“the UK’s flying insects have declined by 60% in 20 years.”*

Those who believe that a pretty street is one utterly bereft of plants, insects, pollinators, birds and mammals, with only concrete and tarmac, may one day have their wish but it won't be a world in which humanity can survive.

The weed control pilot in Wheldrake ward has shown that there are less destructive ways of managing the growth of wild plants.



here?



or here?

In the survey I am currently conducting in Elvington over 50% of respondents want to see more wildflower planting, while 24% of respondents consider overgrown footpaths and pavements to be an issue (after a year where no pesticides have been used in the village.) The parish council has received no complaints about weeds.

In Wheldrake village 36% want to see more wildflower planting, while 21% consider overgrown footpaths a problem (after a year in which sprays have been reduced from 3 to 2.) Aside from the survey results, I have received no complaints from residents about weeds or overgrown pavements in the ward, though I am aware of a single individual in Deighton complaining to officers.

I hope that in the year ahead we plan early and conduct a thorough sweep of all the streets before the growing season and that we look to doing a second weed brush sweep in the summer to remove leaf litter and detritus and plants that might be growing in the kerbs, rather than blanket spraying glyphosates from quadbikes. I hope we allow those areas where residents wish to avoid the use of glyphosates altogether to be allowed to do so and helped to make a success of it. I also hope we look to trialling the French approach of “flowering pavements” in say a dozen streets with the support of residents to see how to manage the public realm to the enhancement of biodiversity.

Cllr Christian Vassie, Wheldrake Ward, City of York Council, November 2022



Economy and Place Policy and Scrutiny Committee**30 January 2023****Public Electric Vehicle Charging Network****Summary**

1. City of York Council (“the Council”) was a pioneer in providing public Electric Vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure, with the first chargepoints installed in 2013.
2. In 2020 the Council was one of the first to adopt a Public EV Charging Strategy (“the Strategy”) which set out the Council’s plans up to 2025. This once again positioned York as a forerunner in the provision of public charging infrastructure.
3. The Strategy is supported by a confirmed budget with external funding providing £3,150,000 and a Council contribution of £1,000,000. This is enabling the delivery of brand new facilities in strategic locations with facilities including Fast, Rapid, and Ultra Rapid chargers.
4. The Strategy considers a number of user groups, with a focus on residents without off-street parking. In line with Government guidance we aim to provide Fast chargepoints within a 10 minute walk (stretch target of 20 minutes) of significant areas of residential properties without off-street parking. We also aim to provide Rapid and Ultra Rapid charging facilities within a 10 minute drive. As shown in Annex A current and planned sites provide total coverage of residential areas within the outer ring road/A1237.
5. The combination of ten years of experience, significant success in attracting external funding, the early publication of a Strategy and the track record of having delivered significant quantities of Fast, Rapid and award winning Ultra Rapid facilities, has positioned York as an exemplar in this field with regular requests for support from other local authorities interested in following the Council’s approach.

6. The Council's pioneering work has been recognised by Energy Saving Trust, Cenex, the LEVI Support Body and OZEV with the Council being an active member of OZEV working groups.
7. The focus of this report is the Council's public EV Network (York EV Network), however members will be aware of recent press conjecture regarding the Council's Fleet electrification programme. The creation of a dedicated Fleet charging facility at Hazel Court is nearing completion. In the meantime early deployment of EV vans has been achieved by utilising the York EV Network since late 2022. Short term plans to allow EV vans without the ability to Rapid charge are in place. As a result EV vans have, and are, being brought into service where appropriate ahead of the dedicated Fleet charging facility being brought on line.
8. Our ambitious EV strategy has delivered 38 new electric vehicles to the Council's fleet vehicle stock including two electric waste vehicles. Sixteen of these are already in operational use by the services and the rest are either in the process of being deployed or are awaiting fitting with racking for Building Services trades. This has unfortunately been delayed due to difficulties with supply chains.
9. It is important to note that the cost and demand for electric vehicles is rising so quickly that should we have waited for the infrastructure the inflation would have driven the cost significantly higher, indeed the vehicles in storage are already more valuable now than when we purchased them.
10. If the Council had waited for the infrastructure before ordering the vehicles then the anticipated delay would be around a year for vehicles to arrive, such is the lead in time for EV Commercial vehicles. As a result, the decision to order vehicles ahead of time has ensured that they are ready to deploy as soon as possible and avoided excessive costs.

Recommendations

11. The Economy and Place Scrutiny Committee is asked to:
 - Note the work undertaken to provide public EV charging facilities.
12. Reasons:
 - Paper requested by Economy and Place Scrutiny Committee.

Background

13. The Council first provided public EV charging facilities in 2013. Since then the EV market has developed significantly. In recognition of this, in 2019 the Council developed one of the first Public EV Charging Strategies with support from the Energy Saving Trust. The Strategy was adopted in March 2020 and runs to 2025.
14. The adoption of a near term, delivery focussed Strategy has enabled the Council to maintain and strengthen its leading position in this field. It has also proved crucial in both the efficient delivery of infrastructure and the ability to attract external funding. This has led to over 75% of all funding being from external sources. This represents exceptional value for the Council and reflects first mover advantage.
15. As set out in the Strategy, day to day running costs of the Network are covered by users via a user tariff. York's 'own and operate' model enables 100% of revenue to be retained by the Council and provides complete control over tariff setting. This approach provides a fair balance which ensures that the costs of running the Network are borne by users whilst keeping tariffs as low as possible.
16. The York EV Network provides three complementary tiers of charging offer; 1. Fast chargepoints (7kW) equivalent to a domestic chargepoint; intended for long dwell times including overnight charging 2. Distributed Rapid chargers (50kW) with a maximum stay of 90 minutes 3. HyperHubs, dedicated charging hubs with Rapid and Ultra Rapid chargers (175kW) with a maximum stay of 90 minutes.
17. The Network is designed to support multiple user groups, including commuters, visitors, through traffic, residents, and residents without off-street parking.
18. For residents without off-street parking the focus is significant areas of terraced housing streets. We aim to provide Fast chargepoints within a 10 minute walk of these areas, with a stretch target of 20 minutes. We aim to provide Rapid chargers within a 10 minute drive, and aim to provide a HyperHub within a 10 minute drive. The delivery of the 2020 – 2025 Strategy is delivering against these aims.
19. When choosing to use overnight Fast chargepoints, residents can apply for the Minster Badge which for EV users allows free overnight parking

whilst charging. This means that residents who prefer to Fast charge overnight do not face additional parking fees that would not apply if they could charge at home.

20. The Strategy has a focus on residents without off-street parking, as it is not possible to charge their EV(s) at home. It has been a longstanding requirement of Government subsidy for residential chargepoints, that off-street parking is present. Without off-street parking reputable chargepoint installers will not install, and no Government subsidy can be applied for by the EV owner.
21. Further to this, the Council (as local highway authority for York) does not allow charging cables to cross Highway land where the cable crosses the footway or enters the running lane of the roadway. Where space is available to avoid crossing footway and where dedicated charging bays can be created that do not sit within the running lane, designs will be considered.
22. Independent advice has been sought from the Energy Saving Trust, and we have received confirmation that where off-street parking is not available, public charging infrastructure is the most appropriate form of EV charging infrastructure provision.
23. Due to the nature of the built environment in York, it is not possible to provide public charging infrastructure on terraced streets, but it is possible to provide facilities within 10 – 20 minutes walk, meeting Government guidance.
24. As part of the review of public provision we have investigated lamp post charging options. Unfortunately in many cases the target streets have no street lamp columns. In any event even if street lamp columns were available, in common with all charging options there would still be no space to create charging bays that do not sit within the running lane of the roadway, and therefore no cable management within the roadway. As a result this is not an option.

Consultation

25. The development of the Public EV Charging Strategy (2020 – 2025) was supported by the independent expert body the Energy Saving Trust (EST). EST provided independent guidance on the approach taken drawn from its extensive experience of EV charging solutions across

the UK. The Council's Strategy was the first to include EST's logo in recognition of this process.

Committee areas of interest

26. Committee has requested additional information on the following:
 - Summary of what we know about how many York residents are now using electric / hybrid vehicles, any supporting data showing growth/decrease over the last 5/10 years.

27. UK data shows that there has been an increase in plug-in car ownership over the past 5 years. In 2018 around 0.2% of cars in circulation in the UK were either BEV (pure electric) or PHEV (plug-in hybrid). In 2019 this increased to 0.8%, in 2020 it became 1.3%, in 2021 it was 2.15% and by the end of 2022 the figure was 3.2%. We believe that York broadly follows the national UK trend, with an estimate of 3% – 4% of cars in York being plug-in (either BEV or PHEV).
28. Over the same period, the split of new BEV to PHEV has changed significantly. In 2018 PHEV sales made up 74% of the new plug-in market. The following year the PHEV share had fallen to 48%, and this trend has continued with 2022 data showing PHEV sales taking a 28% share with BEV achieving 72%, a near total reversal within 5 years. This is in line with market expectations which expect BEV to dominate plug-in sales going forward.
 - What provision there currently is for EV charging across York currently covering on-street, off-street, hyper hubs, the lot, and its performance covering, but not limited to:
 - *How many EV charging points have been installed?*
29. To date we have installed 84 Fast sockets, 12 Rapid and 8 Ultra Rapid chargers. We also have 6 legacy Fast sockets and 1 legacy Rapid charger which will be replaced.
 - *What percentage are actually working at any given time?*
30. All of the infrastructure installed since 2020 regularly meets 99% uptime requirements. The legacy chargepoints (6 sockets) and charger (1 Rapid) have significant reliability issues, and have already been identified for replacement. The replacement of all legacy infrastructure is a key priority within the Strategy.

- *How many vehicles use the charging points per day / per week?*

31. In December 2022 the number of individual charging sessions was 3,826. This equates to 123 sessions a day / 863 sessions a week.

- *Who is using the charging points?*

32. We do not hold this information currently. However anecdotally we do know that residents without off-street parking are using the Network successfully. Generally these customers are preferentially using Rapid and HyperHub sites. We also know that a wide range of customers use the Network, including visitors, commuters, residents and through traffic.

- *Are Hyperhub rapid charging points used more than standard charging points?*

33. Yes. Customers show a clear preference for the award-winning HyperHub facilities. In December 2022, just over 72% of all charging sessions took place at the two HyperHub sites. Furthermore customers show a clear preference for Rapid charging in general, with all Rapid charging sites accounting for 76% of all charging sessions.

- *What is the total carbon emission saving of the EV charging points over the past six months, and what is the projected carbon saving from car vehicles in across York for the next 1 /2 /3 years?*

34. Using BEIS Greenhous gas reporting conversation factors (2022) the quantity of CO₂e saved compared to an average ICE car can be estimated. On this basis, the assumption is that average UK grid electricity is consumed, whereas the Council's electricity contract requires green electricity. Therefore these figures understate the actual CO₂e saving. In addition via HyperHubs, the Council also generates electricity through the onsite PV arrays and offers grid services via onsite battery storage, both of which have a CO₂ benefit not considered here.

35. Past 6 months (June to December 2022); approximately 575 Tonnes of CO₂e were saved. [this assumes that 104 Tonnes were emitted through grid electricity supplied]

36. 1 year forecast (2023); approximately 1,341 Tonnes of CO₂e may be saved. [this assumes that 243 Tonnes of CO₂e are emitted through grid electricity supplied]

37. Year 2 forecast (2024) 1,475 Tonnes of CO₂e may be saved.

38. Year 3 forecast (2025) 1,623 Tonnes of CO₂e may be saved.

- *What is the total number of kWh charged across all the EV charging points in York every day?*

39. The daily average for December 2022 was 3,099 kWh. This equates to approximately 9,684 to 12,912 miles of charge a day. On a monthly basis this equates to approximately 300,215 to 400,287 miles of charge a month.

- *What is the profile of usage across the day/ week?*

40. The profile varies from site to site. In general HyperHubs have strong usage throughout the week but are busiest on Fridays and Saturdays. Approximately 98% of sessions start between 04:00 and 23:00 with the busiest times (2/3rd of sessions) between 10:00 and 17:00.

41. Fast chargepoint sites are generally busiest on Saturdays with Fridays and Mondays being next busiest. Approximately 17% of sessions start between 18:00 – 00:00 across all sites, with this increasing to 20% at the most popular site. This time period correlates with the free parking whilst charging offer, aimed at residents via the EV Minster Badge.

- The challenges faced in introducing on street EV charging (installation logistics, financial, ongoing maintenance/management etc)

42. There are many challenges involved in the installation of on-street infrastructure.

43. On residential streets this starts with consultation, placing infrastructure outside a property whose occupant may not be a plug-in vehicle owner is often controversial. Equally a resident who initially owns a plug-in vehicle may change the vehicle or move house. The perceived loss of a parking space (for ICE) is a common complaint. The TRO process can also be long and difficult as a result. The consultation process can therefore significantly delay rollout and can ultimately stop delivery. For this reason LA's will commonly try to identify sites that are not fronted by residential properties.

44. The consultation issue makes planning rollout difficult as it places significant uncertainty over delivery.

45. On-street EV charging generally requires very long business cases. This is why OZEV has focussed on supporting this sector of the market. As a result the 'concession contract' model is used to deploy on-street

EV charging infrastructure provision. (The Council currently uses the 'own and operate' model rather than the 'concession' model). In York many of the areas of interest are Residents Parking (ResPark) zones which significantly limits the user catchment area, further weakening the commercial case.

46. The concession arrangement is complicated by the uncertainty over deployment. The concession holder will base their proposals on certain rollout rates and will have preferred areas to deploy in, the Local Authority (LA) will want deployment to meet local requirements which is likely to include deployment in areas with weaker business case. The uncertainty of deliverability can lead to tension between the concession holder and the LA as a result.
47. In terms of installation, physical space can be a significant issue, as it is important that minimum footway widths are maintained. Placing chargepoints in the roadway is an alternative but again is dependent on space being available and will lead to a reduction in 'parking spaces'. In addition existing services, utilities, and structures must be avoided, which can be challenging and may determine where infrastructure can be deployed. Finally electrical supply is a critical factor. Supply will generally determine the position of a chargepoint (nearest to supply point) and is by far the biggest variable in the cost of delivery. Securing a new supply point will frequently make individual streets unviable, leading to a 'postcode lottery'.
48. Maintenance of the chargepoint will be provided by the concession holder. This would be a contractual obligation. As such maintenance in broad context should not be an issue. In detail, concession holders should be monitored closely to ensure that maintenance obligations are adhered to as they can be challenging whilst chargepoints are not generating significant returns for a number of years (as is the assumption for on-street providers). This could lead providers to focus repair and maintenance on profitable sites and deprioritise underutilised locations. Consideration should also be given to responsibilities in the event of the concession holder going into liquidation as the combination of long contract durations, weak commercial case, and the relatively recent development of providers in this space combine to make acquisitions, mergers and failures more likely.
49. Financial implications are significant. Firstly, as on-street locations are generally not commercially viable, initial rollout is dependent on subsidy. Concession contracts of over 20 years have been required in

some areas to provide a business case for bidders. This illustrates that there will be significant challenges in rolling out future infrastructure within the next 5 – 10 years with continuous funding required for new sites. This could create significant issues for LA's who are able to start rollout, build resident expectations, and then face significant issues in meeting additional demand.

50. Secondly any revenue/profit share that flows back to the LA will be very limited. This can cause challenges for the LA, as the concession holder will be responsible for installing and maintaining chargepoints but it is the LA that would be responsible for planning where chargepoints are needed, consultations with residents, implementing TRO's, bay management/enforcement, contract management, maintaining footway and highway and managing resident disputes.
51. Thirdly the cost for users can be an issue. As the least commercially viable charging option, on-street charging will generally be more expensive than would be possible in more viable settings. Additionally, through the concession model, it is strongly advised to have more than one provider, but it is not possible for the LA to control the user tariff. As a result the different providers can charge different user tariffs. This will cause confusion for residents as the cost of charging will vary from street to street, or even within one street and could lead to different user experiences.
 - The potential opportunities realised by introducing more on street EV charging.
52. As outlined above there are significant disadvantages to the LA and to the user of rolling out on-street provision with long concession contracts, in residential areas with property frontages, with limited physical space, limited electrical connections, and ResPark restrictions. However there are LA areas which do not have these restrictions, and in these settings on-street benefits from providing chargepoints as close as possible to residential areas, and is a highly visible option.
 - What leading Local Authorities (in this area) are doing/trialling elsewhere for on street EV charging, and their successes/failures.
53. The success of leading LA's (including City of York Council) lies with tailoring provision to local circumstances. This has led to a wide variety of delivery options. In general where LA plans have required improvement, the LA has failed to understand local need (proportion of on-street vs off-street, failure to identify user groups such as tourists, visitors, commuter, resident, through traffic etc) and/or has failed to

consider financial viability, future rollout obligations, ability to define user tariff, and scalability of chosen options. Failure to recognise wider transport objectives and the travel hierarchy can lead to EV actions that undermine or counteract wider transport policy, particularly as actions aimed at privately owned EV's should consider their position at the bottom of the travel hierarchy.

54. We are aware of potential legal action being considered by LA's where their relationship with concession holders has broken down and they remain tied into long running contracts (commonly 15 – 20+ years). This is more likely to occur when the LA has failed to consider the above.
55. There is a consensus view of the leading LA's that any residential charging options for areas with on-street parking/without off-street parking has to be public provision, i.e. residents are not allowed to provide a connection from their own property and run cables across Highway land. As a result LA's are focused on the most appropriate form of public provision.
 - What plans CYC have to increase this provision, even if through pilots. If no current plans in place then a invite ideas from Officers on places for possible pilots, with timescales/costs attached, for particular streets and/or communal non-commercial residential parking areas.
56. Ordnance Lane – a new design for on-street delivery where space is available to avoid cables crossing footway and providing a charging bay outside of the running lane. If successful, new developments/areas where space is available can benefit from this design.
57. Nunthorpe area; known resident demand and currently not well served by existing provision. To develop an on-street design that meets criteria on a nearby non-residential setting to serve residential area. This would test delivery in a new setting to understand any issues.
58. Monitoring success of infrastructure delivered through planning obligations at Lowfield Green and Marjorie Waite Court. Such developments can help to provide 'infill' provision in hard to deploy areas.
59. Public estate; to investigate areas of land within public ownership that could serve nearby residential areas.

Council Plan

60. Getting around sustainably

The provision of public charging supports the adoption of plug-in vehicles.

61. A greener and cleaner city

The provision of public charging supports the adoption of plug-in vehicles which support these objectives. Whilst noting that private vehicles are at the bottom of the travel hierarchy, the York Public EV Charging Strategy has been developed to respect wider transport objectives and avoid counter productive measures.

Implications

62. **Financial**

There are no Financial implications.

63. **Human Resources (HR)**

There are no Human Resources implications.

64. **One Planet Council / Equalities**

65. The Council needs to take into account the Public Sector Equality Duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 (to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other prohibited conduct; advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it and foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it in the exercise of a public authority's functions).

66. Equalities Impact Assessments will be carried out as and when appropriate.

67. **Legal**

68. *Property*

69. Where the Council wants to install new or additional EV charging infrastructure on land that is not owned by the Council, or is leased by the Council to a tenant, then the Council will need to obtain permission

from the landowner or tenant. (For example all of the Park and Ride sites serving York are leased to First York (Ltd). In addition of those Park and Ride sites, 3 (those at the Designer Outlet, Grimston Bar and Rawcliffe) are not owned freehold by the Council but are instead leased by the Council from the respective freehold landowners).

70. *Procurement and Contract*

71. The supply of goods and installation services will be procured in accordance with the provision of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015, the Concession Contracts Regulations 2016 and the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.

72. *Funding Agreement(s)*

73. Any external funding already awarded is likely to be predicated on the council proceeding with the project as described in its funding application(s). A change in scope may mean a change request may need to be drafted and submitted to the funding body to vary the existing application, if that was permitted.

74. Where any additional external funding is applied for and awarded, the funding agreements will be reviewed by Legal Services.

75. **Crime and Disorder**

There are no Crime and Disorder implications.

76. **Information Technology (IT)**

There are no IT implications.

77. **Property**

There are no Property implications.

78. **Transport**

There are no Transport implications.

Risk Management

79. There are no Risk Management issues.

Contact Details

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James Gilchrist
Director of Transport Environment and
Planning

Report **Date** 20/01/2023
Approved

Specialist Implications Officer(s) List information for all

Corporate Finance Team
Legal Services

Wards Affected: List wards or tick box to indicate all **All**

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

Public EV Charging Strategy (2020 – 2025)
<https://www.york.gov.uk/downloads/file/6264/city-of-york-public-ev-charging-strategy>

Annexes

Annex A - Maps showing infrastructure delivered since 2020, future HyperHub sites, 10 minute walk/drive coverage and areas of significant terrace housing.

List of Abbreviations Used in this Report

BEV – Battery Electric Vehicle (Pure Electric)
EV – Electric Vehicle
Fast chargepoint – AC charging at between 7kW – 22kW
ICE – Internal Combustions Engine
kW – Kilowatt

LEVI - Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure

PHEV – Plug-in Hybrid Vehicle

Rapid charger – DC charging at up to 50 kW

TROs - Traffic Regulation Orders

Ultra Rapid charger – DC charging, commonly 150kW to 350kW

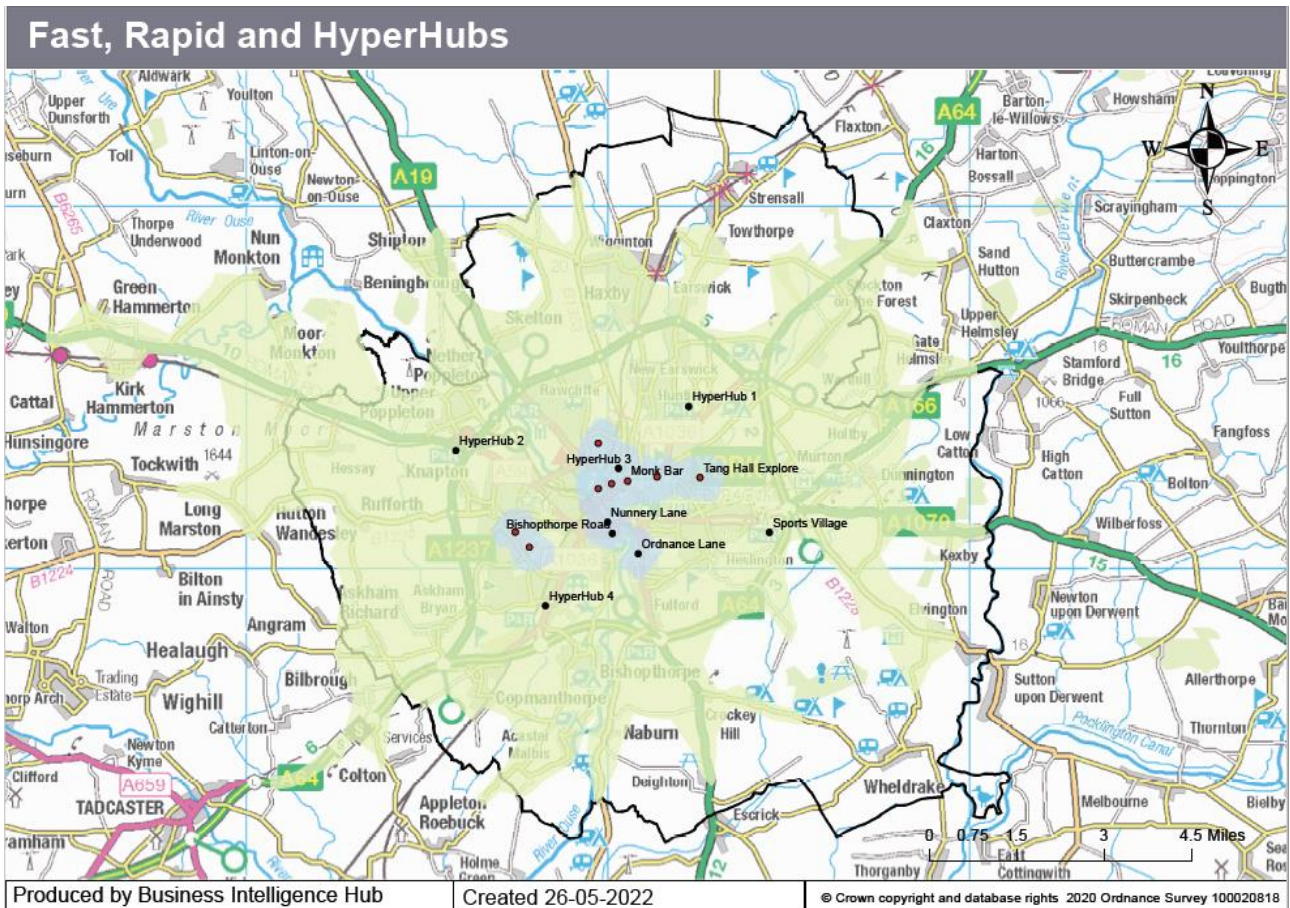
OZEV – Office for Zero Emission Vehicles

Annex A

10 minute walk (grey areas) from Fast chargepoints (red dots) and 10 minute drive (green area) from Rapid and HyperHub sites (black dots).

HyperHub 3 is fully funded but is subject to planning permission

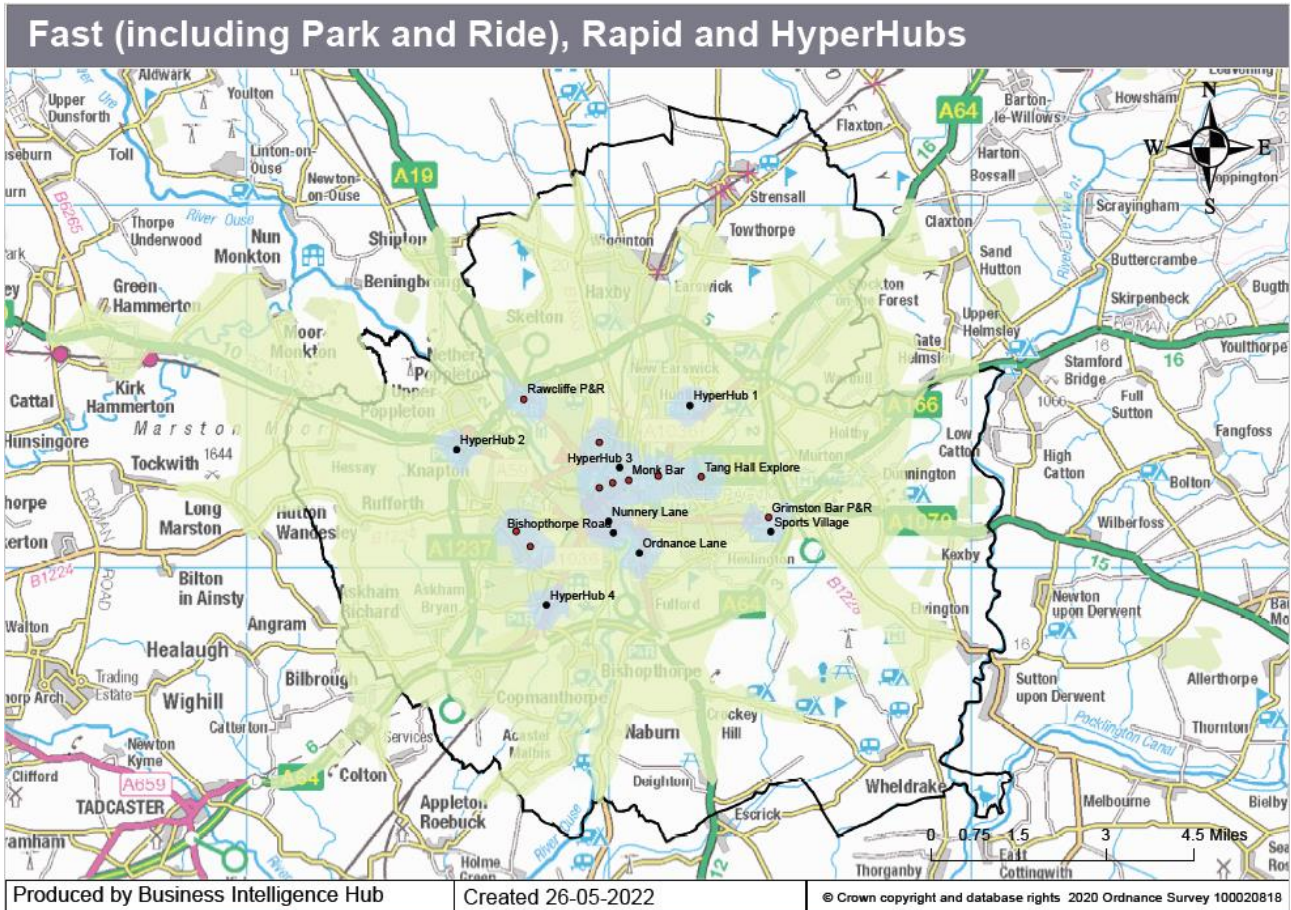
HyperHub 4 is a future development that requires additional funding



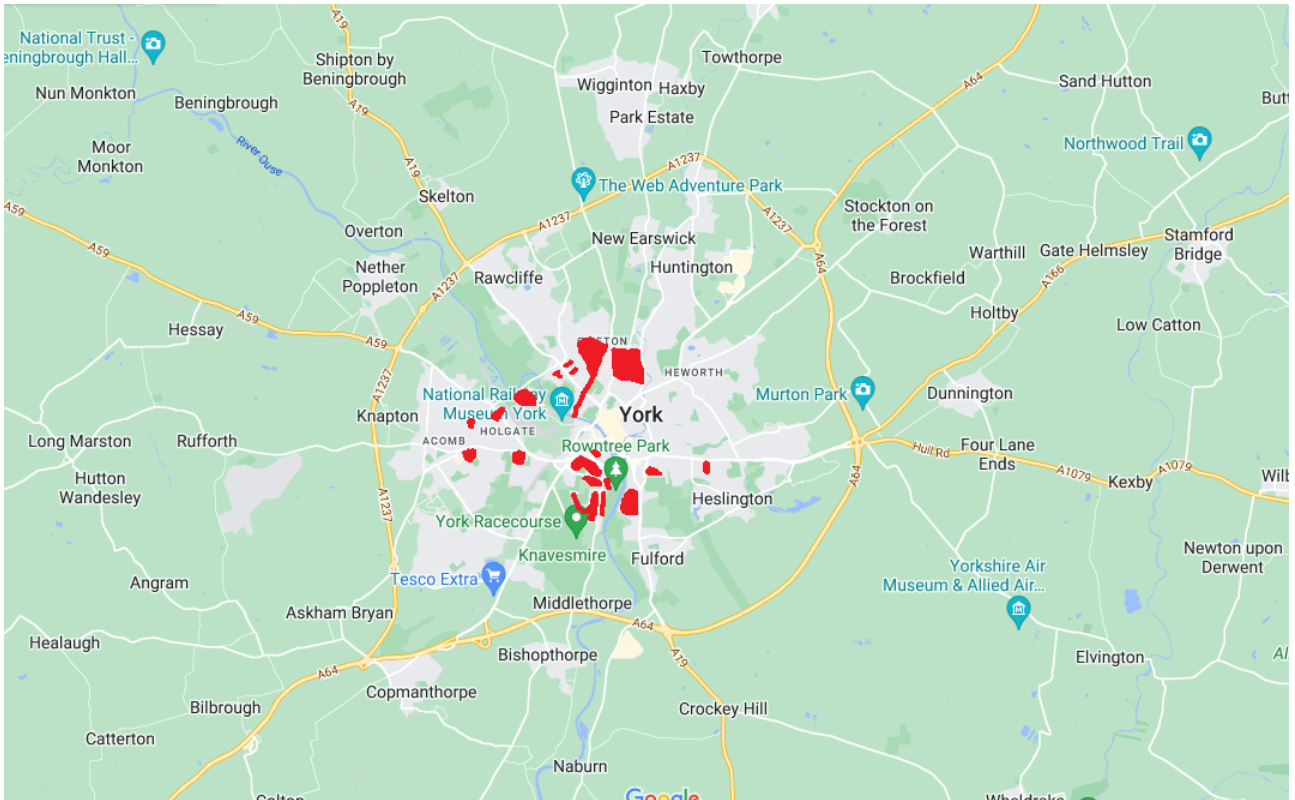
All sites including Park and Ride

HyperHub 3 is fully funded but is subject to planning permission

HyperHub 4 is a future development that requires additional funding



Areas of significant terrace housing



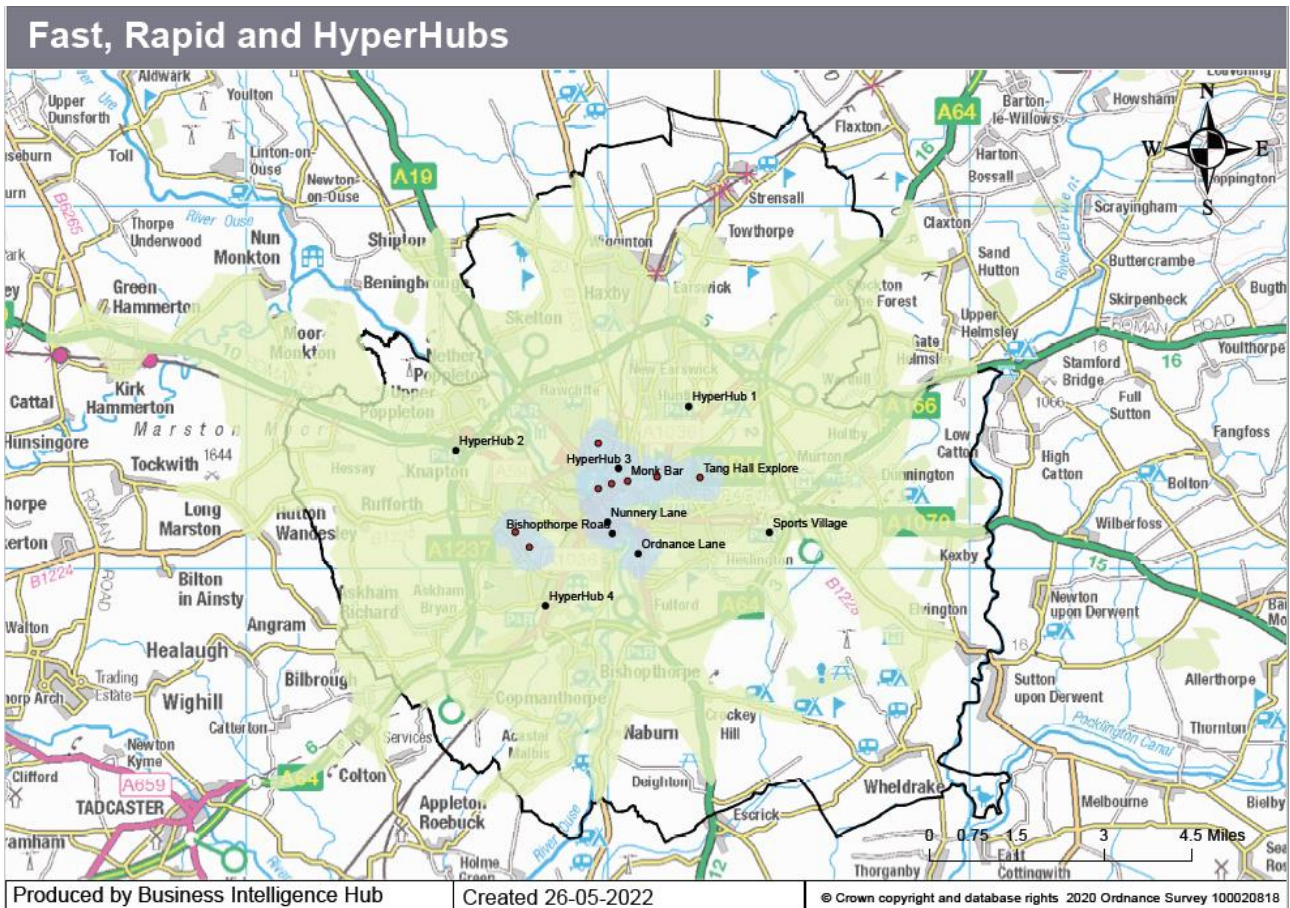
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Annex A

10 minute walk (grey areas) from Fast chargepoints (red dots) and 10 minute drive (green area) from Rapid and HyperHub sites (black dots).

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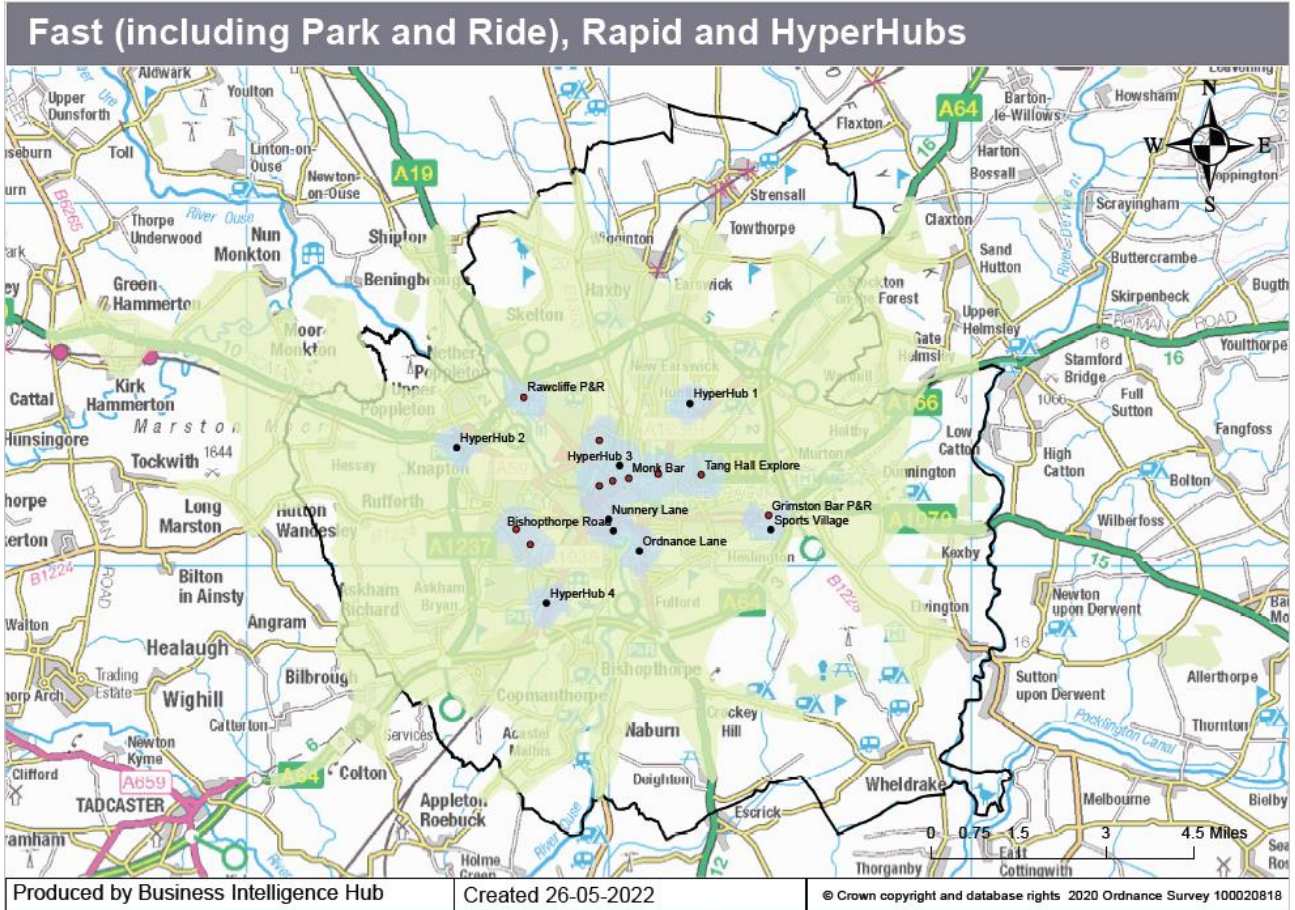
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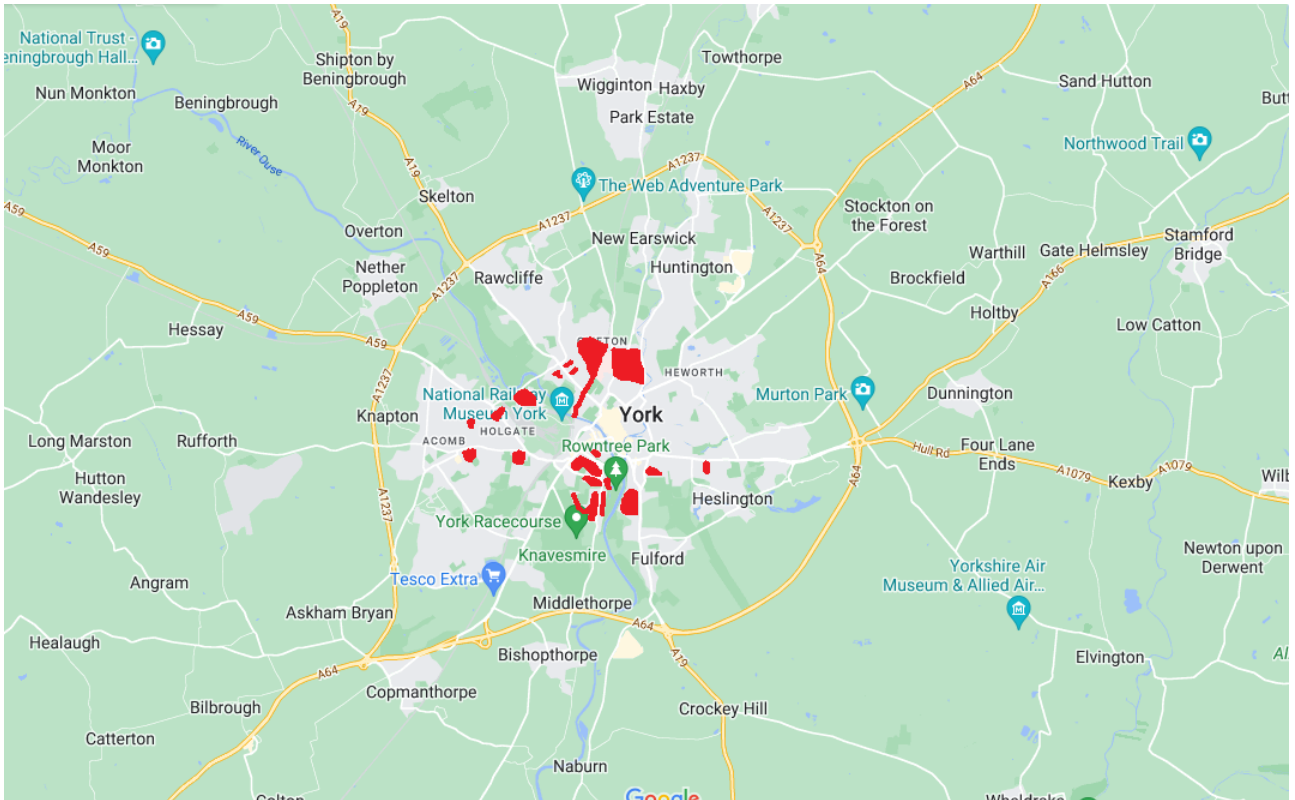
All sites including Park and Ride

HyperHub 3 is fully funded but is subject to planning permission

HyperHub 4 is a future development that requires additional funding



Areas of significant terrace housing



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