

# FAREHAM

## BOROUGH COUNCIL

### AGENDA FOR THE EXECUTIVE

**Date:** Monday, 5 June 2023

**Time:** 6.00 pm

**Venue:** Collingwood Room - Civic Offices

***Executive Members:***

Councillor S D T Woodward, Policy and Resources (Executive Leader)

Councillor I Bastable, Streetscene

Councillor Miss J Burton, Health & Public Protection

Councillor D G Foot, Housing

Councillor S D Martin, Planning and Development

Councillor Mrs S M Walker, Leisure and Community

**1. Apologies for Absence**

**2. Minutes**

To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on 15 May 2023.

**3. Executive Leader's Announcements**

**4. Declarations of Interest**

To receive any declarations of interest from members in accordance with Standing Orders and the Council's Code of Conduct.

**5. Petitions**

**6. Deputations**

To receive any deputations, of which notice has been lodged.

**7. References from Other Committees**

To receive any references from the committees or panels held.

**Matters for Decision in Public**

*Note: Where an urgent item of business is raised in accordance with Part 3 of the Constitution, it will be considered with the relevant service decisions as appropriate.*

**8. Leisure and Community**

**Key Decision**

**(1) Award of Contract: Fareham Live (Pages 5 - 16)**

A report by the Director of Leisure and Community.

**9. Streetscene**

**Key Decision**

**(1) Streetscene Sustainable Pesticide Use (Pages 17 - 26)**

A report by the Head of Streetscene.



A WANNELL  
Chief Executive Officer

[www.fareham.gov.uk](http://www.fareham.gov.uk)

25 May 2023

**For further information please contact:**  
**Democratic Services, Civic Offices, Fareham, PO16 7AZ**  
**Tel: 01329 236100**  
**[democraticservices@fareham.gov.uk](mailto:democraticservices@fareham.gov.uk)**



# FAREHAM

## BOROUGH COUNCIL

### Report to the Executive for Decision 05 June 2023

|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| <b>Portfolio:</b>            | Leisure and Community  |
| <b>Subject:</b>              | <b>Award of Contract – Fareham Live</b>                                    |
| <b>Report of:</b>            | Director of Leisure and Community  |
| <b>Corporate Priorities:</b> | Leisure Opportunities for Health and Fun<br>Maintain and Extend Prosperity |

**Purpose:**

This report seeks approval to award the contract to operate Fareham Live on behalf of the Council to the preferred bidder.

**Executive summary:**

The skill required to programme and operate Fareham Live means that management by an experienced operator is required.

Following the withdrawal of BH Live as the Council's preferred operator on the 20 October 2021, the Council have undertaken a new procurement exercise.

This report seeks approval to appoint the preferred operator of Fareham Live. Following a detailed procurement exercise, three final bidders have provided submissions that offer a varied and high-quality programme of events and activities to enable Fareham Live to be a vibrant venue with activity throughout the day and evening.

The evaluation of the submissions and preferred bidder are provided in confidential Appendix A.

**Recommendation/Recommended Option:**

It is RECOMMENDED the Executive agrees that:-

- (a) the tender submitted by the contractor ranked 1st as set out in confidential Appendix A to the report, being the most advantageous tender received, be accepted and the contract awarded to the company;
- (b) the contractor ranked 2<sup>nd</sup>, as set out in confidential Appendix A to the report is appointed as reserve bidder; and
- (c) Permission for agreement to make minor amendments to the contract with the preferred bidder be delegated to the Director of Leisure and Community in consultation with the Executive Member for Leisure and Community.

**Reason:**

To allow Fareham Live to be operated by a skilled and experienced operator, whilst ensuring the most economically advantageous deal for the Council.

**Cost of proposals:**

The Council will pay an annual management fee to the operator over the life of the contract (12-years with an option to extend by a further 5-years), which will reduce as Fareham Live reaches maturity. There is the potential for this fee to be reduced through a surplus share arrangement and through different management of lifecycle fund.

The costs presented in confidential Appendix A illustrate that in comparison to an in-house submission and also the previous costs of operating Ferneham Hall there are significant savings.

**Appendices:**

**Appendix A: Tender Evaluation Matrix and Preferred Bidder Report (Confidential)** – By virtue of paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person and category 7A (information which is subject to an obligation of confidentiality) of Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972 and the Council's Access to Information Procedure Rules.

It is not in the public interest to publish this information as it would harm the Council's ability to conduct procurement activity in accordance with national procurement legislation and to achieve best value in the consideration of bids received, which are supplied under an obligation of confidence in relation to their financial and technical content. If bidders submissions were disclosed their ability to compete for work would be adversely affected by the disclosure of the detail of their competitive bids and could result in the submission of unaffordable or undeliverable bids / remove the necessary element of market competition that drives best value principles

**Background papers:** None

**Reference papers:** Executive report on 16 May 2022 - Regeneration of Fareham town centre, including Fareham Live and Osborn Road Multi-Storey car park

Executive report on 30 September 2021 – Restarting the remodelling of the Fareham Live Project.

Executive report on 3 August 2020 - The naming of Fareham's new Arts and Entertainment Venue

Executive report on 4 December 2018 – Ferneham Hall Vision Review

# FAREHAM

## BOROUGH COUNCIL

### Executive Briefing Paper

|                     |                                   |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Date:</b>        | 05 June 2023                      |
| <b>Subject:</b>     | Award of Contract – Fareham Live  |
| <b>Briefing by:</b> | Director of Leisure and Community |
| <b>Portfolio:</b>   | Leisure and Community             |

#### INTRODUCTION

1. Ferneham Hall closed its doors for the last time on 5 January 2020. The Planning Committee then granted planning permission for the remodelling works a few months later on 13 May 2020.
2. Due to the impact of COVID-19, all major capital projects were then re-evaluated in 2020. A prudent decision was taken by the Executive on 2 November 2020 to pause the project. At that time, it was unclear what the entertainment sector would look like in the future and whether an 800-seater venue would be the right level of provision.
3. It was agreed at the Executive meeting held on the 30 September 2021 to recommence works on the Fareham Live project, with a revised construction budget and amended performance programme.
4. A contract had previously been awarded to BH Live to operate the venue on behalf of the Council, however on the 20 October 2022, BH Live withdrew from the agreement as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Following the withdrawal of BH Live to operate Fareham Live, the Executive approved the procurement of a new, experienced operator to manage Fareham Live.
5. A Member Working Group (MWG) and an Officer Working Group were established to oversee the procurement process alongside the development of designs for a remodelled arts and entertainment venue.
6. This report provides an overview of the procurement process undertaken to appoint an operator to manage Fareham Live. It further seeks approval for the appointment of a preferred bidder as set out in Confidential Appendix A Tender Evaluation Matrix and Preferred Bidder Report.
7. Appendix A is required to be confidential, as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act as the details contained within the document has

information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

## **BACKGROUND**

8. Fareham Live is currently planned to open as a new community arts and entertainment venue in Spring 2024.
9. The skill required to programme and operate Fareham Live, means that management by an experienced operator is required. As well as having the appropriate skills and experience, a charitable trust or equivalent organisation, such as the shortlisted organisations within Appendix A, has more flexibility and freedom to seek external funding and would meet the required criteria to benefit from discretionary Business Rate relief.
10. The Council will retain ownership of the asset and the operator will manage it on the Council's behalf. This model has been successfully demonstrated at Fareham Leisure Centre and Holly Hill Leisure Centre.
11. The Council will pay an annual management payment to the operator, which would reduce as the performance of the operator improves, with potential for a surplus share arrangement to reduce the management fee further.

## **PROCUREMENT PROCESS**

12. Experienced Leisure and Cultural Consultant, RPT Consulting, was appointed to guide the procurement process, having previously worked with the Council on the development of Holly Hill Leisure Centre, and a wide range of publicly and privately-owned arts and leisure venues across the country.
13. Following the withdrawal of BH Live, market engagement was undertaken with potential operators, to assess the likely level of interest in the operation of Fareham Live, which demonstrated there was keen interest.
14. Following market engagement, a tender process was undertaken which sought to identify and seek tenders for the operation based on a 12-year contract (with the potential to extend for a further 5 years).
15. The Council received five initial expressions of interest from the market and, following dialogue, three potential operators provided their initial tenders for the management of Fareham Live.
16. Following evaluation of the initial tenders all three potential operators were asked to submit final tenders, which were received on the 28 April 2023. Final tender evaluations took place during May, with officers looking for the most economically advantageous submission, taking into account the bidders' proposed quality of service and commercial arrangements.
17. Whilst the bids received from the operators are not as financially advantageous as the BH Live positions (both pre and post Covid) they offer a better financial position than the previous Ferneham Hall operating position and the in-house projections which have been undertaken and are detailed in confidential Appendix A.
18. The current financial proposals are based on the market position following Covid and they reflect both the recovery position and also the significant increases in utilities and



other costs due to the impact of the current cost of living crisis. Whilst not getting to a break-even position, they do reflect an improving position as the contract matures.

19. This report seeks approval to appoint a preferred operator for Fareham Live. If approved, the new operator will be appointed, and the contract finalised.
20. Having received a good submission from the second contractor, it is proposed that they be designated as the reserve bidder until the contract with the preferred operator is finalised. This is standard practice and reduces the Council's exposure to risk.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

21. The tender submitted by the preferred operator is the most economically advantageous received and whilst the Council will pay the operator a management fee throughout the life of the contract, this reduces significantly as the facility matures and performance improves. There is also the potential for the management fee to be reduced further through a surplus share arrangement and amendments to the lifecycle fund management, with the Council taking control of the lifecycle fund allocated within the bidders proposals.
22. The preferred operator (and the reserve bidder) management fee proposals provide the best financial position for the Council, and both offer significant savings on an in-house option and also the previous cost of operating Ferneham Hall.

## **CLIMATE CHANGE CONSIDERATIONS**

23. The preferred operator will be responsible for monitoring energy usage and environmental management across the venue. They will employ best practice approaches to energy and water management, waste and recycling procurement of supplies and sustainable transport in order to help protect the environment.
24. To enable the operator to reduce energy use, the design of the new venue includes the following:
  - The building fabric is fully insulated to minimise heat loss
  - The gas supply to the building has been disconnected to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide
  - The heating will be provided by Air Source Heat Pumps to provide low carbon heating

## **CONCLUSION**

25. An experienced operator is required to run Fareham Live. Following an extensive procurement exercise, three high quality final tenders have been received. It is recommended that the most advantageous tender received, ranked 1st in confidential Appendix A of this report, be accepted and a contract awarded.
26. It is recommended that the tender ranked 2nd in confidential Appendix A is appointed as reserve bidder in the event that the final contract negotiations result in the preferred bidder not entering into a contract with the Council.

**Enquiries:**

For further information on this report please contact Lindsey Ansell, Director of Leisure and Community. Tel: 01329 824567 or Emma Bowler, Leisure and Community Manager. Tel: 01329 824440

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A  
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted



# FAREHAM

## BOROUGH COUNCIL

### Report to the Executive for Decision 05 June 2023

|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| <b>Portfolio:</b>            | Streetscene                                  |
| <b>Subject:</b>              | <b>Streetscene Sustainable Pesticide Use</b> |
| <b>Report of:</b>            | Head of Streetscene                          |
| <b>Corporate Priorities:</b> | Protect and Enhance the Environment          |

**Purpose:**

To inform Members of the Executive about the current use of pesticides on public land by the Council's Streetscene team, the legislation controlling pesticide use and what alternative measures other local authorities are currently adopting. This information will be used to inform a debate on the Council's use of Glyphosate following the receipt of a petition received at the Council Meeting held on 20 April on the use of Glyphosate on Public Land.

**Executive summary:**

On 20 April 2023 the Council received a petition submitted by Councillor Ms C Bainbridge on behalf of Conserving Habitats in Portchester (C.H.I.P), which requested that Fareham Borough Council ensure that, in public areas, it replaces the use of Glyphosate with chemical free weed removal methods, which are better for the environment and pose no risk to humans, wildlife and pets.

A small number of councils have initiated either a partial herbicide ban, or glyphosate ban for general use. However, it appears that all authorities are still using glyphosate to treat invasive species such as Japanese knotweed.

The Council's Streetscene Scrutiny Panel received a presentation on the Council's Pesticide Treatment Programme at the meeting on 26 January 2023. Members of the Panel were very supportive of the suggestion put forward in the presentation that a Policy be developed to regulate the Council's use of pesticides and to provide details of the measures being considered to reduce them.

As the first step in the development of a policy, officers have contacted other local authorities and reviewed recent trials and studies about the use of glyphosate for weed control which indicates this remains the most sustainable option.

**Recommendation/Recommended Option:**

It is RECOMMENDED that the Executive note the contents of the report.

**Reason:**

To inform a debate on the Council's use of Glyphosate following the receipt of a petition received at the Council Meeting held on 20 April on the use of Glyphosate on Public Land.

**Cost of proposals:**

Continuation with the current arrangements for use of herbicide treatment can be met from within the existing revenue budget. Further investigation would be needed to ascertain detailed costs for any alternative weed control method.

**Appendices:**

APPENDIX A – Summary of responses from local authorities using alternative weed control methods

**Background papers:**

Minutes of Streetscene Scrutiny Panel meeting - 26 January 2023

Minutes of the Executive meeting - 03 April 2023

Minutes of Council meeting – 20 April 2023

**Reference papers:**

# FAREHAM

## BOROUGH COUNCIL

### Executive Briefing Paper

|                     |                                       |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Date:</b>        | 05 June 2023                          |
| <b>Subject:</b>     | Streetscene Sustainable Pesticide Use |
| <b>Briefing by:</b> | Head of Streetscene                   |
| <b>Portfolio:</b>   | Streetscene                           |

#### INTRODUCTION

1. On 20 April 2023 the Council received a petition submitted by Councillor Ms C Bainbridge on behalf of Conserving Habitats in Portchester (C.H.I.P) which requested that Fareham Borough Council ensure that, in public areas, it replaces the use of Glyphosate with chemical free weed removal methods, which are better for the environment and pose no risk to humans, wildlife and pets.
2. Members were advised at the meeting that, whilst this petition was being formally submitted, it would not be debated until a later meeting of the Council following a formal report being presented to the Executive at the June meeting so that Members could be furnished with all the facts before debating the issue. Members were further advised that the lead petitioner has been advised of this and will be invited to give a deputation at the meeting of the Executive.

#### BACKGROUND

3. In 2015, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) classified glyphosate as 'probably carcinogenic'. At the same time, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) concluded that it is unlikely to pose a carcinogenic hazard to humans.
4. In 2019, US court rulings against Monsanto ruled in favour of plaintiffs who claimed to have contracted cancer because of the prolonged use of its glyphosate-based products namely Roundup.
5. In 2021, the Assessment Group on Glyphosate (AGG) concluded that glyphosate does not pose any hazard to human or environmental health.
6. In 2022, Bayer (the current owner of the Roundup product) successfully defended itself in five glyphosate-based product cancer trials in the US.
7. The use of Glyphosate in Europe will come under review again in 2023. The UK central government still supports the continued use of glyphosate. Indeed, most Councils appear to still use Glyphosate in the UK and all authorities in Hampshire do so.

8. Pesticides, also known as 'plant protection products' (PPP) are used to control pests, weeds, and diseases. Examples include insecticides, fungicides, herbicides, molluscicides, and plant growth regulators.
9. They can exist in many forms, such as solid granules, powders or liquids and consist of one or more active substances co-formulated with other materials.
10. The Health & Safety Executive (HSE) is the national pesticides regulator for the UK, on behalf of the UK government and the devolved administrations.
11. HSE aim to ensure that pesticides do not harm human health or have unacceptable effects on the environment by:
  - Enforcing the regulations
  - Ensuring only authorised products can be marketed
  - Ensuring products are used in a sustainable fashion
  - Monitoring the impact of chemicals
12. Anyone applying for authorisation of a product must provide an extensive range of scientific and technical data. Through this data, they must demonstrate that the product is effective and humane and poses no unacceptable risks to people (including users, residents, and bystanders), wildlife and the environment.
13. Only when the Government is satisfied with the above data can authorisation be granted for the product.
14. There is a Code of Practice for using Plant Protection Products. This code of practice is for all professional users of plant protection products in England and Wales in respect of Part III of the Food and Environment Protection Act 1985 (FEPA) and the regulations controlling pesticides,
15. The Code's statutory basis means that it can be used in evidence if people are taken to Court for offences involving PPPs.
16. The Council is not the only user of pesticides in the Borough of Fareham, including herbicide products containing Glyphosate. Residents use a range of pesticides to control weeds pests and diseases on their property. Hampshire Highways treat weed growth on Highway hard surfaces such as roads and footpaths. Farmers use pesticides for crop and vegetation management.
17. Nationally, although incidents of pets suffering ill effects from glyphosate poisoning have been recorded, there are no known deaths of a pet attributed to glyphosate poisoning.
18. To date Fareham Borough Council has yet to receive a toxicology report confirming Glyphosate poisoning in a pet leading to sickness in the animal, although social media activity has indicated some residents have associated this with their pets being poorly.

## **STREETSCENE PESTICIDE USE IN PUBLIC SPACES**



19. Streetscene use a range of pesticide products in public spaces including the herbicide Glyphosate.
20. Fungicides and herbicides not containing glyphosate are used to control disease and weed growth in fine turf sports surfaces such as bowling greens and cricket squares. This is a necessary and cost-effective solution to maintain a playing surface that is fit for purpose.
21. Herbicides including glyphosate-based formulations are used to control plant growth around obstacles and street furniture in parks, cemeteries, open spaces, housing amenity areas and roadside verges.
22. A small variety of chemicals including glyphosate-based formulations are used to treat invasive species such as Japanese Knotweed.

### **HOW STREETSCENE ENSURE THE SAFE USE OF PESTICIDES**

23. All operatives applying pesticides have undergone accredited training and hold a certificate of competence in the safe use of pesticide.
24. Operatives are clearly identified when undertaking herbicide application by wearing high visibility vests with the wording '*Herbicide application in progress*' on the back to inform residents they are in the process of spraying herbicide.
25. The Grounds Maintenance page on the Council's website indicates the current Ward in the Borough that herbicide application on roadside verges and open space is taking place to help keep residents informed when treatment is underway in their area.
26. Parks, cemeteries, open spaces, housing amenity land and roadside grass verge chemical treatments are applied using controlled droplet technology. It is a sealed and ready-to-use format and, as such, there is no risk of spillages, while the delivery system allows for extremely accurate application and virtually eliminates spray and run-off.
27. Most herbicide, including Glyphosate based products, are usually used just once a year as part of a sustainable integrated control programme in parks, open spaces and on highway verges to help control growth around obstacles. This is to ensure that the current grounds maintenance resource can maintain a reasonable standard of presentation of the borough's public amenity areas at an affordable cost.
28. The Council use a small variety of chemicals including glyphosate-based formulations to treat invasive species such as Japanese Knotweed. Japanese knotweed is treated up to three times a year to prevent the plant spreading to neighbouring properties and avoid potential substantial compensation claims.
29. Glyphosate is the only active ingredient that is approved for use in or near water. This is an essential tool for the control and eradication of hazardous weeds such as Japanese Knotweed and Giant Hogweed growing near water courses.

### **ALTERNATIVE WEED CONTROL COMPARISON**

30. There are several alternatives to using pesticides that have been trialled by different

local authorities. The Council's own Streetscene team have trialled hot foam and wire sweeper brushes.

31. The trials undertaken by the Streetscene team and other local authorities show that alternative methods of treatment do not provide the same level of weed control as herbicide use and require more frequent visits to achieve satisfactory results. A summary of alternative weed control methods is included in the table below.

| <b>Method</b> | <b>Speed of Application</b> | <b>Root Kill</b> | <b>Staff Resource</b> | <b>Cost</b> | <b>Access</b> | <b>Frequency of Application</b> |
|---------------|-----------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|-------------|---------------|---------------------------------|
| Chemical      | Fast                        | Very good        | Low                   | Low         | All           | 1-2                             |
| Manual        | Slow                        | Partial          | Higher                | Higher      | All           | 4-6                             |
| Hot Foam      | Medium                      | Good             | Higher                | Higher      | Restricted    | 3-4                             |
| Hot Water     | Medium                      | Partial          | Higher                | Higher      | Restricted    | 4-6                             |
| Flame         | Medium                      | Good             | Higher                | Higher      | Restricted    | 4-6                             |

32. Alternative methods often involve increasing vehicle and equipment use combined with increased operational staff time and therefore, is likely to increase carbon emissions and service costs.
33. Hot foam and hot water methods rely on the use of high volumes of water and diesel fuelled boilers, making the environmental impact high. There is also the need to use long trailing hoses that can be restrictive so not all areas that require control will be accessible.

### **OTHER LOCAL AUTHORITIES APPROACH**

34. Officers have recently contacted several local authorities to understand their position on pesticide use. According to the Pesticides Action Network (PAN UK), at least 40 UK local authorities have banned its use. The Councils listed below have been identified as stopping altogether or in part their use of glyphosate and were contacted for feedback:

- Brighton and Hove
- Lewes and Eastbourne
- Croydon (Suffolk County Council)
- Somerset County Council
- Hackney
- Hammersmith and Fulham
- Rochford District Council
- Cornwall Council
- Milton Keynes Council
- Reading
- Richmond
- City of Westminster
- Dorset Council
- Portsmouth City Council

35. In total, 5 local authorities responded back to the enquiry out of the 14 contacted. Studies and trials have also been undertaken by local authorities who have either shared or published their findings. A table detailing the responses received is contained in Appendix A. The main findings were:
- There is no consistent type of ban across the authorities that responded
    - Only two Councils have introduced a total Glyphosate ban
    - One Council has a complete Herbicide ban
    - One Council has a partial ban
    - One Council has not initiated a ban to date
  - All Councils contacted still use herbicides (Glyphosate) to treat invasive/hazardous species including Japanese Knotweed.
  - At this time, no Council has found or are using an alternative chemical to Glyphosate.
  - While alternative methods are still being trialled, most respondents stated that they rely on manual weeding.
  - The response to increase in complaints is divided but three out of the five responding did admit resident complaints have increased.
36. It is worth noting that not all authorities share the same landscape environment and therefore face the same issues to the same extent. An example is in a city such as Portsmouth or London Borough such as Hackney most residential roads are hard paved without grass verges. In Fareham however, most residential roads in the borough include grass verges that have trees and street furniture within and so any lowering of preserved standards will affect the majority of residents outlook in their neighbourhoods.
37. In a similar way rural authorities tend to maintain rural roads and countryside parkland, so this landscape type lends itself to more long grass and wildlife habitats that are visually and socially acceptable but do not encroach on densely habitable areas or areas of high footfall.

## **PESTICIDE USE POLICY**

38. The Council's Streetscene Scrutiny Panel received a presentation on the Council's Pesticide Treatment Programme at the meeting on 26 January 2023. Members of the Panel were very supportive of the suggestion put forward in the presentation that a Policy be developed to regulate the Council's use of pesticides and to provide details of the measures being considered to reduce them.
39. A pesticide use policy will help to ensure the Council continues to comply with HSE requirements to only use approved products passed as humane that pose no unacceptable risks to people (including users, residents, and bystanders), wildlife and the environment.
40. It would show how, where when and why the Council use pesticides and what measures are being considered to reduce pesticide use. It can also highlight details on any reductions in pesticide use that have already been achieved, good practice undertaken and what alternative methods are being employed and where.

41. The development of a policy would allow the Council to consider the cost options and potential outcomes for alternative solutions to be fully assessed so that a more informed debate on the impact locally can be made.

### **IMPLICATIONS OF A BAN ON GLYPHOSATE**

42. With the current staff resource available, banning the use of Glyphosate on public land would lead to an increase in weed growth and tall vegetation around the Borough, potentially detracting from the visual amenity of Fareham and in the long-term increasing the risk of infrastructure damage.
43. There is also a likely increase in public claims for injury caused by trips on weeds and surface damage on footpaths and paved areas such as council housing land and public spaces. Significant costs could arise if knotweed is allowed to spread onto private properties from adjacent Council land.
44. To mitigate these issues, it would be necessary to increase the staff resource in the Streetscene Operations team which would increase costs. Alternative methods of control would also require additional equipment, vehicles, and staff to operate.
45. To date there is no comparable alternative treatment for invasive weeds such as knotweed.

### **CLIMATE CHANGE CONSIDERATIONS**

46. Depending on the option chosen there may be an increase in carbon emissions from the additional vehicle journeys and machinery used as an alternative vegetation control method to Glyphosate. Further studies would need to be undertaken to ascertain the scale and therefore impact on emissions.

### **CONCLUSION**

47. Trials undertaken by the Streetscene team and other local authorities show that alternative methods of herbicide treatment do not provide the same level of weed control as herbicide use and require more frequent visits when using alternative methods to achieve satisfactory results.
48. The indication from the survey of local authorities, who have banned the use of herbicide, in most cases resulted in an increase in complaints from residents relating to excessive weed growth.
49. The Streetscene team current use of pesticide is kept to a minimum and applied with a controlled application. This ensures effective control of invasive weeds, good quality sports playing surfaces and cost-effective control of weed growth around furniture and obstacles on public open spaces.
50. The Streetscene Scrutiny Panel considered the Council's use of herbicide at the meeting on 26 January 2023 and endorsed the development and adoption of a sustainable pesticide usage policy.
51. Such a policy would allow the Council to consider the cost options and environmental impact of any future decisions regarding the use of herbicide and allow the potential outcomes for the various solutions to be fully assessed and measured alongside the local impact so that the appropriate solutions can be put in place.

**Enquiries:**

For further information on this report please contact Mark Bowler (Head of Streetscene or Mick Gore (Public Spaces and Operations Manager)

**APPENDIX A – SUMMARY OF RESPONSES FROM LOCAL AUTHORITIES USING ALTERNATIVE WEED CONTROL METHODS**

| Councils | Type of ban? | Fungicides & pesticides still used on fine turf? | Used on Roadside verge, housing sites, parks & open spaces? | Alternative chemicals? Alternative methods? | Increased cost? | Increased complaints? | Use of herbicides on Invasive species? |
|----------|--------------|--|---|---|-----------------|-----------------------|--|
|          |              |  |   |   |                 |                       |  |

|                             |  |           |     |   |     |     |     |
|-----------------------------|--|-----------|-----|---|-----|-----|-----|
| <b>Brighton and Hove</b>    | Glyphosate   | No        | No  | No Manual                                 | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| <b>Hackney</b>              | Partial  | Yes       | Yes | No Sowing                                 | Yes | No  | Yes |
| <b>Lewes and Eastbourne</b> | Herbicide  | Sometimes | No  | Foam Stream<br>Manual                     | No  | Yes | Yes |
| <b>Portsmouth</b>           | No ban in place but a trial of alternatives methods is underway. | Yes       | Yes | Trial of Foam Stream, Mechanical & Manual | N/a | N/a | Yes |
| <b>Somerset</b>             | Glyphosate   | No        | No  | None                                      | No  | Yes | Yes |

## OTHER RECENT COUNCIL STUDIES

### Cardiff Council

In 2021 Cardiff Council and its contractors undertook a trial of three weed control methods across the city. The three methods used were measured against four key criteria: cost, environmental impact, customer satisfaction and quality. Consultants from Advanced Invasives Ltd managed the trial and published the results.

Control methods trialled included glyphosate herbicide, acetic acid, and hot foam. Results showed that glyphosate was the most sustainable, being cost effective with low environmental impacts and high customer satisfaction and quality. In contrast, acetic acid delivered immediate costs and environmental impacts with low customer satisfaction and quality, while hot foam generated high costs and environmental impacts but high customer satisfaction and quality.

### North Yorkshire County Council

In 2021 hot foam was tested and due to cost and logistical considerations concluded that they will not be deploying this method in the coming years.

### Bristol City Council

In 2017 this council compared three methods of control and concluded that glyphosate was the most cost-effective treatment. Acetic acid was more than three times more expensive to use while hot foam was up to seven times the cost for the same outcome.