



EXECUTIVE

BURNLEY TOWN HALL

Monday 17th February 2020 at 6.30 pm

70. Use of Glyphosate by the Council

PURPOSE

To consider a motion from the Green Party for the Council to cease all use of glyphosate herbicide and to recommend action that the Council will take in response.

REASON FOR DECISION

Glyphosate is certified and approved for the control of weeds in public places and is the safest and most cost-effective method available. However, there is growing popular and political pressure to eliminate the use of glyphosate, which may lead to the chemical being de-listed at some point in the future. It is therefore prudent for the Council to investigate ways in which glyphosate and other pesticides could be eliminated

The Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive (2009/128/EC) promotes the use of integrated pest management and the use of alternative non-chemical alternatives

DECISION

- (1) That phasing out the use of pesticides and herbicides on land that it owns or manages by undertaking trials of alternative techniques and reviewing progress made by other authorities be investigated;
- (2) That a trial be undertaken to cease the use of glyphosate in children's play areas and in Thompson and Ightenhill parks from April 2020 to the end of September 2020 using alternative methods of mechanical and steam treatment to manage weeds;
- (3) That the use of the organic herbicide pelargonic acid be trialled for control of weeds around graves in Burnley Cemetery from April 2020 to the end of September 2020;
- (4) That the use of glyphosate be continued to control highway weeds but instigate trials of integrated weed control to reduce the quantity of herbicide used, including a trial of spot treating weeds using a hand-held CDA in a representative area of the Borough;
- (5) That Scrutiny Committee be requested to review the outcome of trials and review the progress being made by other local authorities to reduce/eliminate glyphosate use and to complete this by the end of November 2020;

- (6) That the Green Party's desire to see glyphosate-based herbicides banned be noted, but relies on regulatory agencies to determine the safety or otherwise of regulated pesticides; and
- (7) That the Leader of Lancashire County Council and Minister of State at the Department for Environment and Rural Affairs be written to informing them of this Council's resolution.