

Portsmouth City Council Scrutiny Scoping Document

Scrutiny Panel	Traffic, Environment & Community Safety.
Topic	Reducing the use of pesticides on council land.
<p>Purpose of enquiry inc. potential outcomes.</p> <p>(The remit to be clear and concise as this statement forms the backbone of the enquiry)</p>	<p>To evaluate the council's delivery of a phased withdrawal from the use of all pesticides, including Glyphosate, over a period of three years by understanding:</p> <p>The current procedures for weed removal in the different areas: parks and public open spaces, communal areas surrounding council housing stock and citywide highway infrastructure (roads, pavements and other public realm areas).</p> <p>The steps the council is currently taking to reduce and minimise the use of pesticides</p> <p>The trials of alternative methods of weed removal.</p> <p>How other local authorities have reduced their use of pesticides.</p>
Reason for enquiry	<p>In July 2022 the Full Council passed a Notice of Motion:</p> <p>To ask Cabinet, utilising the TECS Scrutiny Panel as appropriate, to commission trials of a wide range of non-chemical and mechanical alternatives for weed treatment and management and to request council officers report back the findings within six months.</p> <p>To ask Cabinet to involve local communities in becoming a pesticide-free city, including ensuring the council communicates the benefits of stopping pesticide use and invites residents to take part in trialling other methods of weed management.</p> <p>To request that Portsmouth City Council, through Cabinet, delivers a phased withdrawal from the use of all pesticides, including Glyphosate, over a period of three years, using methods tested in the aforementioned trials. This includes all of the council's subcontractors, such as Colas.</p> <p>To ask Cabinet to take the opportunity of the best-value review of its contract with Colas in 2024 to both improve community liaison and identify ways in which Colas can change its practices to help the council achieve its</p>

	<p>environmental objectives. For example, not spraying where residents have opted out, allowing for larger and non-sprayed tree pits and other opportunities for allowing wildflowers to flourish.</p> <p>To request that the Leader of the Council provides bi-annual updates to members on the progress of this initiative.</p>
Enquiry format	Scrutiny review.
Corporate Priority linked to	Improving health and care for our communities. Our council aims and priorities - Portsmouth City Council
Relevant Cabinet Member(s)	<p>Cabinet Member for Traffic & Transportation</p> <p>Cabinet Member for Housing & Preventing Homelessness.</p> <p>Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure & Economic Development.</p>
Relevant officers	<p>To include:</p> <p>Phil Bentley, Head of Estates Services</p> <p>Adrian Rozier, Parks Development Manager</p> <p>Martin Lavers, Assistant Director, Regeneration.</p>
Consultees & stakeholders	<p>Colas Ltd.</p> <p>University of Portsmouth</p> <p>Portsmouth Friends of the Earth</p>
Start Date	March 2023.
Target Completion Date	December 2023.