

Appendix A

Draft Cabinet response to recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee

The document sets out the draft response of the Cabinet Member to recommendations made by the Scrutiny Committee on 04 December 2023 concerning the Review of Glyphosate Use by Oxford Direct Services to Manage Weeds on Behalf of Oxford City Council. The Cabinet is asked to amend and agree a formal response as appropriate.

Recommendation	Agree?	Comment
1) That the Council works with Oxford Direct Services to compile a list of areas within the City where local community groups have purposefully planted plants, which should be approached with caution by Oxford Direct Services when applying Glyphosate so as not to cause unwanted damage.	No	Glyphosate is only applied topically onto weeds growing within pavements and other paved areas. Care is already taken to ensure it does not impact on other plants growing within the vicinity of those areas where the herbicide treatment is being applied.
2) That the Council provides a means for community groups and interested individuals to register for updates related to when Glyphosate application will take place in particular areas across the City, to enable the synchronisation of works undertaken by those groups and Oxford Direct Services.	No	The application of Glyphosate is undertaken three times a year, and only when conditions are appropriate – for example not when it is raining or windy. It would not be practicable to provide real time updates on operational works of this nature undertaken across the city.
3) That the Council publishes a list of those areas of the City which have currently opted-out of Glyphosate application, to ensure councillors are aware of areas in their respective wards and can access the information freely.	Yes	Historically, Osney and St Thomas Ward has been opted out of Glyphosate treatment for weeds on paved surfaces with the agreement of ODS. Going forwards it is proposed that the usage of Glyphosate to manage weed intrusion in paved surfaces is delivered uniformly across the city to meet need.
4) That the Council develops a communications plan for those areas of the City which have currently opted-out of Glyphosate application and the public more broadly to ensure awareness and understanding of the proposals regarding Glyphosate usage going forward.	Yes	A communications plan is already being applied. A press release has already been issued and media coverage generated on the proposed approach to Glyphosate usage. Infographics have been created and will be distributed through the Council's digital channels.

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