

Scoping template for the Scrutiny Committee

Scope of work for scrutiny:

Broad topic area:	Use of glyphosate based herbicide on Council owned or controlled land.
Specific areas to explore within topic area:	<p><u>Proposed review</u></p> <p>Councillor Mike Goodman has submitted the following proposal for a review by the Committee:</p> <p><i>In 2022 it was decided that EDDC would not use glyphosate-based herbicide on council owned land. Many areas particularly verges and pavements are being damaged because the weeds are not being dealt with. This is causing serious damage to pavements and verges.</i></p> <p><i>Councils in the UK have started to review this policy: it is timely that EDDC review its policy, and any changes should be considered based on current facts.</i></p> <p><u>Background information</u></p> <p>In March 2022 Cabinet</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. approved the ban of glyphosate based herbicides by September 2022 as set out in the report recommendation section along with banning the use of woody weed killers; 2. endorsed the replacement of glyphosate and other chemicals with an integrated weed management approach which included the use of the RHS vinegar based weed control and manual control methods; and 3. endorsed bids being placed in the 2023/24 capital programme for 2 x Hotfoam machines (circa £67k investment), required to supplement other integrated weed control methods. <p>Report to Cabinet 30 March 2022 Chemical Review Audit Herbicides - Streetscene.pdf</p> <p>Chemical Audit and Review.pdf</p> <p>The report to Cabinet also contained the following reasons for the recommendations: One of Streetscene's objectives this year, and included as part of its service plan (April 2021 – March 2022), was to undertake a review of chemical usage across our service, specifically herbicides that are used across the public</p>

	<p>realm and in our green spaces.</p> <p><u>Streetscene Service Plan [2021-22] Objective 5 – Review of chemical usage</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate and trial more sustainable alternatives to herbicides for weed control. • Reduce the use of glyphosate and other chemicals across sports pitches, green spaces and public realm areas. • Produce a report to Cabinet on alternatives – to include withdrawing from weed spraying in some areas, including Highways around town centres, which we do although it is not in our remit. • Cost physical alternatives and project resourcing requirements. <p>Note: The Committee may wish to focus the review on the above service plan objectives.</p>
Areas NOT covered by the review:	<p>Land which is not owned or controlled by EDDC, although consideration should be given to land owned by EDDC and leased to another organisation.</p> <p>Devon County Council is responsible for highways and verges.</p>
Desired outcomes of the review:	<p>Cllr Goodman has requested that Scrutiny Committee considers the effects the ban is having in East Devon, and to consider if a more targeted approach in using glyphosate-based herbicide is more appropriate.</p>
Who should be consulted to obtain evidence (e.g. Ward Member, officers, stakeholders)	<p><u>Portfolio Holders:</u> Portfolio Holder Environment – Operational Portfolio Holder Environment – Nature and Climate</p> <p><u>EDDC Officers (operational and technical advice):</u> Assistant Director StreetScene StreetScene Operations Manager Horticultural Technical Officer</p> <p><u>Ward Members (local feedback):</u> Ward members to be consulted for evidence of local impact including concerns raised by residents</p>
What evidence already exists (consultation, good practice examples)	<p>Further information is available on Why do some councils reverse their ban on pesticides? - Pesticide Action Network UK</p>

	<p>Plant Protection Products (Prohibition on Public Sector Use) Bill - Parliamentary Bills - UK Parliament</p> <p>Active substance renewal: glyphosate - HSE (includes timescale for renewal of approval of glyphosate use in the UK)</p>
Has there been/is there currently a similar review or work being undertaken by another authority?	Please refer to the Pesticide Action Network website: PAN UK Home - Pesticide Action Network UK including the article linked above regarding other local authorities' reviews
What experts are needed to help with the review:	EDDC Officers as listed above
What other resources are needed:	None
Undertaken by the Committee or is a TAFF required:	Report to Scrutiny Committee
Timescale including start date:	<p>4 September 2025: Scope of review to be agreed by the Scrutiny Committee</p> <p>5 March 2026: Report to Committee</p> <p>Reasons for proposed timescale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requested by the Assistant Director StreetScene due to: current vacant post in the Parks Team; vacancies in the operations teams due to agency supply shortage and some missing key personnel due to sickness; efforts are currently focussed on maintaining operational delivery, but having to slow grounds rounds and use overtime to cover weekend working rotas due to the aforementioned vacancies. • To allow time for consultation with Ward Members and to understand localised impacts of the ban on glyphosate use.
Who are the recommendations being reported to:	Cabinet