

## Notice of Motion

### Motion to be moved by Councillor Kennett:

#### Context:

The council has recently passed a Right to Grow (RTG) motion and approved a policy for its implementation on 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2025. The RTG policy encourages biodiversity and nature friendly growing practices, and the Council notes the importance of leading by example and its wider commitment to sustainability. Glyphosate is a possible carcinogen, has a negative impact on wider biodiversity and is unsightly from a visual point of view post application.

#### Key facts/ points to note:

- It is both nationally and internationally recognised that glyphosate-based herbicides have an impact on soil health and biodiversity. Other local authorities, towns and cities have banned or phased out the use of glyphosate, as of 2024, the list of towns and cities in the UK that are pesticide free or phasing out their use is 49. Multiple case studies exist in the UK with demonstrable positive feedback and outcomes.
- Research has demonstrated the negative environmental impact of glyphosate, including impacts on non-target plant species, birds and other environmental impacts such as on soil microorganisms.
- The World Health Authority has identified Glyphosate as a “probably Human carcinogen”, however research continues to be carried out to understand the impact and significance particularly due to its potential to persist in the environment, water, soil and food chain. Poor soil health increases water runoff and risk of flood, it also reduces the volume or absorption of soils. Whilst there is no clear consensus the general direction of research supports consideration of alternatives and replacement for Glyphosate.
- The wider decline in biodiversity is well understood to be a global emergency, with impacts at all scales. At a local level, the recent State of Yorkshire’s Nature report has documented a 25% drop in almost one in five species in the county. Our towns and cities are increasingly becoming havens for wildlife and are recognised as a critical interface between people and nature: providing ways to engage positively and incorporate good practices. As such, any possible way of minimising any adverse environmental or health impact of glyphosate should be considered.

#### Council resolves to ask the Executive to:

- Implement a phased reduction in Glyphosate and other Glyphosate based herbicide on Council owned land (including work conducted by both Hull City Council staff and its authorised contractors and business tenants) resulting in an 80% reduction by April, 2030. Glyphosate should only be used in particular

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circumstances when alternatives are not possible.

- Develop an alternative weed management strategy to include non-chemical alternatives to glyphosate weed management, or acceptance of the existence of wildflowers and plants as being part of a biodiverse urban ecosystem.
- Train relevant Council operatives in outputs of the weed management strategy.
- Develop and implement a clear communication plan, including: (i) engaging those participating in RTG activities to act as ambassadors of good herbicide and pesticide practice; (ii) to support understanding of wild plants, the benefits of biodiversity positive practices to encourage residents to engage with alternative strategies; (iii) use of signage to advertise the reasons why more wild plants may be establishing, and the benefits of that to people and wildlife, and (iv) establish a communication strategy that provides information about the visual impact of using less chemicals, and the positive reasons for implementing the changes (including improved flood management through soil health).

Sources:

<https://cmis.hullcc.gov.uk/cmis/CalendarofMeetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/10748/Committee/3/SelectedTab/Documents/Default.aspx>

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