

Councillor Brian Steele – Chair, Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

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Our ref
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Please Contact
Cllr Brian Steele

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20th August 2025

Cllr Simon Currie
Elected Member

Via email: simon.currie@rotherham.gov.uk

Dear Cllr Currie

Supplementary question at Council – Wednesday 16th July 2025

Thank you for your question at Council on 16th July regarding discussions in 2022 during a Scrutiny meeting relating to the use of weedkiller. Please accept my sincere apologies for the delay in responding.

The initial trial of glyphosate alternatives in the borough was scheduled to begin this summer. However, due to a number of factors, this has been postponed to next year. Please find attached a presentation outlining the planned trial, which we hope will reassure you of our commitment to exploring viable alternatives.

Currently, we aim to treat weeds twice per year using glyphosate, focusing solely on hard-standing areas to minimise environmental impact. Without the full detail and infrastructure of a trial, this remains the most cost-effective method for weed control across the borough.

The licence for glyphosate has been extended until December 2026 and may be extended further. In the meantime, we continue to tackle weed growth through spraying, regular gully channel sweeping and our winter works programme, which

includes grubbing and weeding over 240 locations annually. This programme runs from October to March.

We have scheduled a meeting with our climate change colleagues in late August to update the presentation and finalise preparations for next year's trial. This includes procurement, planning, and necessary approvals. With a longer lead-in time, we anticipate launching the trial from May 2026, subject to weather conditions.

As part of the trial, we plan to compare the following methods against our current approach, each with varying cost and resource implications:

- Pelargonic Acid
- Hot Foam
- Manual Removal

I would be happy to arrange a discussion with the Cabinet Member and responsible Assistant Director if you would like any further detail or have any questions and would find this helpful?

Yours sincerely

Brian Steele

Cllr Brian Steele
Chair – Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

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