

Stakeholders relevant to the provision of weed removal in Wirral

Number	Stakeholder	Internal/ External	Influence	Interest	Comment
1	Parks & Environment	Internal	High	High	The weed removal service remains under the responsibility of the Parks and Gardens team, accountability for any decision will rest here. If the service goes in-house, this could have a direct implication on staffing. Officers from Parks and Gardens have been undertaking and monitoring trial experiments to investigate potential alternatives to Glyphosate, this will be key to the appraisal process. Specialist knowledge and experience of the service is also within this team, they will have to play a large part in the decision making process and presentation to committee.
2	Climate Emergency Team	Internal	Medium	High	The reduction of Glyphosate is an action listed within the Climate Emergency Action Plan and is associated with wider environmental issues. They have an interest in how this will proceed and will need to be involved in the appraisal process throughout.
3	Highways	Internal	Medium	High	The weed removal service is directly linked to Highways, ensuring that Wirral highways and roads stay free from weeds is a shared priority.
4	Corporate Procurement	Internal	Low	Low	The procurement team will have a key role to play if a tender option is considered. They will need to be present in the appraisal to properly advise on what this option

					will look like, and commit resources to go ahead with the process if chosen.
5	Residents	External	Low	Medium	Keeping the borough neat, tidy and free of weeds is a priority of the weed removal service. Ensuring that residents have clean, weed free streets is a priority. Any method will first and foremost deliver on this priority. The effectiveness, duration and efficiency is key when considering how we approach this service.
6	Community groups	External	Medium	High	Glyphosate is a topic that causes strong feelings and opposition, understandably, with certain local groups. The continuation of using Glyphosate will no doubt be unpopular, no matter the justification used in regards to alternatives. The potential inclusion of small-scale involvement via scraping could be a bridge, however, as found in the trial investigations, manual scraping can have health and safety risks along with commitment levels of volunteers long term.
7	Council	Internal	High	High	The reduction and removal of Glyphosate was a commitment made in July 2019 and is a key issue for Members. The commitment to remove Glyphosate from the service is conditional to a viable (effectiveness, cost, efficiency, safety) alternative. Long trials and in depth investigations into alternatives has not yet produced an alternative that we consider to be viable – detailed in the options appraisal. In-house options, even with

					Glyphosate, will need to be seriously investigated to bring to Councillors, as there is an interest in looking into it to deliver Wirral's weed removal service.
8	Service Providers (including incumbent)	External	Low	High	The option to re-tender the service externally remains a strong option. We'd expect this contract to welcome a competitive pool of bidders with strong bids. It provides an opportunity for providers to secure an attractive contract, provided the bid satisfies Council needs also.
9	Wider environmental networks, eg APSE	External	Low	Medium	The issue of reducing Glyphosate is a key discussion in wider networks, including APSE. We have a responsibility as an APSE member Council to be involved in the conversation and pass on any relevant information to the wider network if deemed necessary or useful.
10	Nomix Dual representatives	External	Low	High	This is a lower Glyphosate (but not free) alternative that has been mentioned early as one worth investigating further. Meetings have been arranged with their experts and the option will likely be considered on the final shortlist. Their representatives will be interested in how we choose to proceed.