

## **POLICY, GOVERNANCE & FINANCE COMMITTEE**

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**Date:** Monday, 25 March 2024

**Title:** Pesticides Policy

**Contact Officer:** Operations Manager - Angus Whitburn

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### **Background**

At the Climate, Biodiversity and Planning Committee on the 7<sup>th</sup> of November 2023, the council approved the drafting of a pesticide policy for a future meeting.

### **Current Situation**

The policy has now been fully drafted and is ready for committee review and feedback. The policy has been created with the aim to keep pesticide application to a bare minimum. This has mainly been achieved through the use of defined spray zones with all other areas unmarked becoming strict non-spray zones.

The applications of pesticides will be controlled through the use of zones defined in the policy and indicated on operation mapping. Listed below are areas across Witney Town Council estate all defined on that mapping.

- West Witney Bowls Green
- West Witney Cricket Square
- West Witney Football Pitches
- Burwell Football Pitches
- Burwell MUGA
- King George's Football Pitch
- King Georges MUGA
- All play areas
- Leys tennis courts
- Leys bowls green
- Leys cricket square
- Leys football pitches
- Walling around Tower Hill Cemetery
- Consecrated and unconsecrated chapel at Tower Hill Cemetery
- Walling around St Marys Church
- Town Centre War Memorial
- Buttercross
- Town Hall

- Corn Exchange
- Windrush ashes path

### **Environmental impact**

Having declared a Climate Change Emergency at its Council meeting on 26 June 2019 – with this in mind Councillors should have due regard to the environmental impact of any decisions they make with regard to its facilities and services it operates.

Pesticides have an impact on the environment, some glyphosate-based herbicides do not break down causing unintended damage to the surrounding environment. In all areas, the council should aim to reduce its pesticide application and balance this against potential complaints and the overall image of the town.

### **Recommendations**

Members are invited to note the report and consider the following:

1. Review and consider amendments to the draft pesticide policy.
2. Approve the final policy with the inclusion of any amendments.