

Halls and Green Spaces Committee

Date: 11th November 2019

Title: Sports Pitches Bowls Maintenance Specification & Pesticide Policy (including STRI Report).

Contact Officer: Operations and Estates Officer John Hickman

Background

This report has been prepared in order to inform the Councillors of the current position regarding the councils Sports Pitches, Bowls Maintenance Specification & Pesticide Policy.

Action Taken

The STRI Sports Pitches, Bowls Maintenance Specification and Pesticide Policy was commissioned with Michael Boyes Sports Turf Agronomist on 16th September 19.

Current Position

The Sports Pitches Pesticide Policy has been completed and the final draft has been provided for council consideration, it does not prevent the use of pesticides but follows the key recommendations of modern pesticide practice, it limits use of pesticides via a set of thresholds.

This policy can be adapted to form policy for all of WTC's other areas limiting pesticide usage to only where it is absolutely necessary via again a set of clear thresholds.

The Sports Pitches, Bowls Maintenance Specification is close to its final draft and may be ready in time for this meeting for council consideration this specification is designed to limit the need for Pesticide usage as far as is possible.

Continental Landscapes have attached a quote for the additional costs associated for carrying out the additional works in line with the new Specification. Please see quote provided for costs.

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.

The new Pesticide Policy and Sports Specification if agreed should reduce the Councils requirement for the use of pesticides reducing WTC's environmental impact.

Risk

In decision making Councillors should give consideration to any risks to the Council and any action it can take to limit or negate its liability.

Financial implications

There is expected to be an additional cost to the Grounds Contract due to the increased maintenance of the Sports Pitches and Bowls Greens.

Recommendations

Member are invited to note the report and consider the following

1. The new Pesticide Policy for Sports Pitches and Bowls Greens.
2. The increased Sports Pitches and Bowls Greens Specification.
3. The New Pesticide Policy.
4. The additional cost on the Grounds Contract for the update specification.