

## Operational Decision Record

<b>Publication Date</b> (to be added by Governance Services)  31/01/2022	<b>Decision Reference Number</b> (to be added by Governance Services)  4519
<b>Decision Title</b>	
Street scene Weed Control programme	
<b>Decision Value</b>	
£100,000 over 3 years	
<b>Revenue or Capital Spend?</b>	
Revenue	
<b>Department</b>	
Resident Services, Neighbourhood Services, Public Realm Service	
<b>Contact Officer (Name, job title, and contact details)</b>	
<b>Chidi Egenti- Service Manager Streetscene and Grounds Maintenance</b> <u><a href="mailto:Chidi.egenti@nottinghamcity.gov.uk">Chidi.egenti@nottinghamcity.gov.uk</a></u> <b>07950945695</b>  <b>Eddie Curry – Head of Public Realm</b> <u><a href="mailto:eddie.curry@nottinghamcity.gov.uk">eddie.curry@nottinghamcity.gov.uk</a></u> <b>07949061135</b>	
<b>Decision Taken</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Approve the allocation of existing revenue resources that are included in the existing Budget to fund the external contract with external contractors</li> <li>2. Approve the decision to tender out the provision of weed control contract.</li> <li>3. Approve the delegation of authority to the Director of Neighbourhood Services to carry out the required procurement exercise and enter into contracts relating to the delivery of the weed control service.</li> </ol>	
<b>Reasons for Decision and Background Information</b>	
<p>Weed control is necessary in Nottingham to deliver some of the priorities below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure Nottingham is the Cleanest Big City in England and keep the neighbourhoods as clean as the City Centre.</li> <li>• To manage public spaces, pavements and gullies to minimise weeds and keep Nottingham Tidy.</li> </ul>	

### **Make or Buy considerations**

This work was last contracted out in 2014 for 2 years and was insourced in 2016. Since this time the street scene teams have struggled to meet the demands of the service. The main impacts of insourcing this work has resulted in a significant reduction in staff capacity needed to deliver the weed contract work and to continue to deliver the general scheduled work.

As part of the Street Scene transformation agenda early consideration is being put in place to reverse the insourcing of this work as part of a drive towards creating a Mixed Economy Delivery model supported by contractors brought into deliver specialists services during peaks of seasonal demand.

NCC Street scene do not currently have any framework agreements for this type of work but in this first round of contracting out of services it is deemed appropriate to tender this specialist contract in isolation and not part of any wider contracts at this time. However this will be considered for future procurement strategies.

Approval is therefore sought to request tenders from external contractors to carry out the citywide street weed spraying contract for a 3 year period. As this is specialist work there is some advantages and economies of scale that can be achieved through a single scope specialist contract however the contract will be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure the quality of the work and ensure it delivers value for money.

### **Other Options Considered and why these were rejected**

Council staff currently carry out this work. To be effective, weed control needs to be completed 3 times every year (or at least, a minimum of two times each year) and these have to be done to the following timetable

- First Treatment – April - May each year (External Contractor)
- Second Treatment - June – July (External Contractor)
- Third Treatment – August – September (Internal)

Ever since we have insourced this work, we have not been able to complete the schedule in a timely manner.

Outsourcing this specialist work is deemed to be the best option as it will ensure the work is carried out to the required standard, be carried out quickly and without creating any additional pressures for the street scene teams.

### **Reasons why this decision is classified as operational**

The work is essential work as not doing it further causes damage to the highway which in turn costs the Council more in repairs.

In addition, it is essential that Councils use weed control methods to treat grass/weeds around trees, obstacles, fences, along walls and road signs to reduce the need for strimming and to improve the visual appearance of grass growth around fixtures. We also apply it to footpath surfaces and roadside channels

**Additional Information**

**Procurement comments -**

Procurement will support the procurement process to ensure best value and compliance with contract regulations.

H. Fisher, Lead Procurement Officer, 12/01/2022

**Finance Comments –**

- The 'Weed Spraying' service is a fully costed element of the current service running cost budget and therefore this proposal is affordable.
- The procurement process will seek to secure value for money whilst ensuring NCC procure a contractor that uses only 'approved' chemicals and methods of spraying.
- There are no expected financial savings. However, the residual resources will allow Street Scene to operate more efficiently and ensure staff capacity is refocused on the delivery of programmed work and their current NCH / HRA contracts.

Meagan Milic  
Finance Business Partner – Resident Services  
13/01/2022

EIA has not been completed as this is routine work that is completed every year to benefit the residents of Nottingham and there are no negative implications from this contract. We do have a mechanism for residents to inform us if they do not wish for any herbicide to be applied to their streets.

**Decision Maker (Name and Job Title)**

*Approved*

Frank Jordan, Corporate Director of Resident Services

**Scheme of Delegation Reference Number**

**Date Decision Taken**

*27 / 1 / 22*



