



## **USE OF PESTICIDES POLICY**

### **1. Introduction**

The Council is committed to undertaking maintenance of its recreation grounds, open spaces and other areas of responsibility by using methods which have minimum damaging impact on the natural environment.

The Council will keep pesticide use to a minimum and only to be used if absolutely necessary.

To ensure the safe and managed approach to using pesticides, the Council will follow the Code of Practice for using Plant Protection Products set by The Plant Protection Products (Sustainable Use) Regulations 2012.

### **2. Weed Control**

Priority will be given to the use of non-chemical solutions to control weeds. The Council will reduce the need for chemical application by using horticultural techniques and actions in the first instance.

Although every effort will be made to use non- chemical control, there will still be some areas where alternative methods are not currently available or effective.

### **3. Approved Pesticides**

The Council will only use pesticides on the GB Pesticides Approvals Register that have been authorised for use in the Council's specific purpose.

Due diligence must be taken when engaging contractors to carry out work involving sourcing pesticides for use on our land to ensure they are complying with this policy.

Where pesticides must be used, council operatives and contractors will comply with The Plant Protection Products (Sustainable Use) Regulations 2012.

### **4. Training**

Where pesticides must be used, they will only be applied by trained and competent operatives with the appropriate certification.

Where pesticides must be used, it will be applied in a way that confirms with the latest Health and Safety legislation. (The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974)

### **5. Storage, Handling and disposal**

The Council will follow the Code of Practice for Plant Protection Products to ensure that pesticide storage, handling, disposal and the cleaning of any equipment used does not endanger human health or the environment.

The storage and disposal of the product must be followed in accordance with instructions on the product label.

Pesticides will be stored in the chemical store and only those trained in the use of chemicals will have access to the store.

Any product remaining or that has been withdrawn from use will be disposed of via an authorised hazardous waste carrier.

COSHH sheets will be completed for all chemical products.

## **6. Record keeping**

Records of pesticide applications will be kept for a minimum of 3 years and will detail: date, location, area covered, operator and weather conditions.

## **7. Future Design and Planning considerations**

Where opportunity exists on Council land to influence the design of new features or the modification of existing ones, control of weeds will be considered when determining materials. This includes ground covering plants and the use of asphalt instead of paving slabs.