AGENDA ITEM: 7G

QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Motion on behalf of Councillor Ian Moran, Leader

In considering performance targets LE01 and LE02 in relation to grass cutting, it is considered that the current arrangements for weed control in the Borough has resulted in enhanced weed growth in many of the cracks in the infrastructure and being left untreated, allowing the germination of many seeds to spread and exacerbate the problem.

It is necessary to undertake weed control to prevent further damage to pavements and road surfaces. The removal of weeds from channel ways also helps to allow rain water to flow more freely and reach drainage points provided along many carriageways.

In addition, it is evident that undertaking two cyclical sprays during the season is inadequate to control the weed growth at the rate that has been visible due to the changing climate. Optimal growing conditions, wet and very humid has enable weed growth to accelerate this year particularly.

The principal responsibility for weed control on highways in West Lancashire lies with Lancashire County Council. The Council funding is proposed for one year only and a request should be made to Lancashire County Council to assist in meeting the funding requirement proposed in this motion and make suitable contingency arrangements for future years.

Accordingly it be agreed:

A That the Council's performance against the indicator set for the quarter ended 30 June 2019 be noted.

B That a team of four Operatives be employed for 12 weeks at a cost of £23,834 to undertake intense weed scraping across the Borough.

C To hire a sweeper for 12 weeks at a cost of £6,800 to work along with the manual teams.

D The budget for this initiative will be met from the appropriate corporate reserve.

E To seek a suitable contribution from Lancashire County Council for the expenditure now authorised and review the provision of weed control for 2020/21.

F That the call-in procedure is not appropriate for this item due to the urgent need to undertake revised arrangements in respect of weed control under
items B to E (inclusive) and, otherwise that the call-in procedure is not appropriate for this item as the report will be submitted to the meeting of the Corporate & Environmental Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 10 October 2019.