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David Allatt
Interim Service Director
Highways and Transport

by e-mail only

12 February 2024

Dear Parish, Town, and District Councils

Subject: Review of Highways Operational Standards in Relation to Weed Management

I am writing to provide you with an update on the recent review of the Highways Operational Standards (HOS) in relation to weed management in Cambridgeshire. The review aimed to assess the impact of changes implemented in April 2023 and gather stakeholders' feedback to inform further improvements.

The review identified the need for revisions to the HOS and recommended their approval for consultation with local stakeholders. This aims to improve environmental performance, reduce carbon emissions, and enhance road user safety through proactive weed management.

In January the Highways and Transport committee decided to reinstate the use of chemical weed control across the county, the report findings confirmed that the use of chemical weed control remains to be the most effective method for weed control as well as being the most financially viable option.

The paper submitted to the committee can be found [here](#).

Additionally, we would like to inform you that a one off non-chemical weed removal program will be implemented to cleanse all areas affected by weeds. This program will serve as a deep clean measure before the cyclical chemical weed treatment program, which will take place twice per annum, is reinstated in May 2024.

Please click link attached to complete a short questionnaire regarding the use of chemicals as weed control in your area.

However, we understand that some residents may have concerns about the use of chemicals in weed management. If your area prefers not to have chemicals used, we kindly request you still complete the questionnaire using the link and email assetdatastrategy@cambridgeshire.gov.uk with your alternative proposals on how you wish weed control is managed within your area.

Funding towards alternative weed control management can be offered, this would be the equivalent cost of using chemicals to control the weeds so therefore would act as a contribution towards alternative weed control and not cover the full cost.

We believe that this review and the proposed revisions to the Highways Operational Standards will contribute to creating a greener, safer, and more environmentally sustainable Cambridgeshire. Your participation in the process to reinstate the use of chemical weed control is crucial to ensure that the standards reflect the needs and concerns of our local communities.

Please feel free to reach out to us if you have any questions or require further information. We appreciate your continued cooperation and support in maintaining the quality and safety of our highways.

Thank you for your attention.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D. Allatt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small horizontal line at the end.

David Allatt

Interim Service Director Highways and Transport

