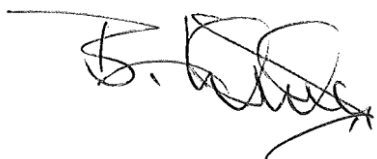


# MEMBER'S WRITTEN QUESTION



Member submitting the question Mark Coker	
Date received by Chief Exec's Business Support: <a href="mailto:ChiefExecutiveBusinessSupportUnit@plymouth.gov.uk">ChiefExecutiveBusinessSupportUnit@plymouth.gov.uk</a>	
To the Cabinet Member for street scene and waste	
<p><b>Question</b></p> <p>Can you confirm that the contract to provide weed and vegetation is on target and confirm that all areas of the city have had their first sprays and the second is on schedule.</p>	
<p><b>Answer:</b></p> <p>The Council contracted a third party provider to undertake 2 x Citywide weed sprays in 2022. Unfortunately, the contractor secured substantially less staff than committed. This is a UK wide recruitment challenge with high vacancy rates across a number of sectors. Additionally, the very hot summer has had an impact as the extreme heat drastically reduces the impact of chemical treatment. Therefore, the first spray was only completed at the end of August.</p> <p>In order to bolster the spray a further contractor has been commissioned to undertake the second spray. This will mean up to 4 x the amount of operatives out spraying across the city and should significantly expedite the completion of the second spray. As both sets of contractors are paid on a per metre basis there is no duplication of cost.</p> <p>The second contractor will commence within the next 4-5 weeks, at which time we will be able to more accurately forecast the completion of the second spray. Albeit, please bear in mind wet weather will delay any spraying.</p> <p>In addition to chemical treatment, the Council also tackles weeds through manual removal, the use of our road sweepers and most recently the investment in 2 x mechanised weed rippers which are tackling larger weed growth in lanes and on footways across the city. The Council have also trialled various technologies such as burners and hot foam treatments – however, so far there is no reasonable alternative to chemical that provides a good balance of effectiveness, cost, staff resource and carbon emissions.</p>	
Signed:	Date: 16/09/2022
	

Written questions:

- must be submitted to the Monitoring Officer via the Chief Exec's Business Support
- will be replied to within 10 working days
- will be published on the last Friday of each month
- The completed form should be sent to [ChiefExecutiveBusinessSupportUnit@plymouth.gov.uk](mailto:ChiefExecutiveBusinessSupportUnit@plymouth.gov.uk) or by post to Chief Exec's Business Support, Ballard House, West Hoe Road, Plymouth PL1 3BJ