

**ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY PANEL
WEED CONTROL – ACTION PLAN**

DATE 11.04.11

SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATION	PROPOSED ACTION	BY WHOM	BUDGET COST	TIMESCALE
<p>1. That steps are taken to raise awareness and make the public and all Middlesbrough Councillors aware of the process of weed control, in particular why areas may appear to suffer from an increased level of weeds in recent years.</p>	<p>That a newsletter be produced outlining past problems in some areas and detailing the new approach to weed control. The newsletter to be circulated to all members and community councils.</p> <p>An article be placed in Middlesbrough news and on the council's web site.</p>	<p>Keith Garland</p>	<p>Nil</p>	<p>April 2011</p>
<p>2. That steps are taken to encourage the public to take greater ownership of their local area, such as the frontages of their properties, and to work in partnership with the Council on areas such as weed control. The scrutiny panel suggests that this could be undertaken as part of a wider campaign by Streetscene to highlight general environmental issues and raise environmental awareness.</p>	<p>That Environment Services address all community councils identifying environmental issues that the service faces and encourage the community councils to advertise in their community newsletters for any volunteers that would like to partner with the service and for the service to provide tools/equipment and training to these groups.</p>	<p>Keith Garland</p>	<p>5000 funded from cost saving in 3 below</p>	<p>April 2011 – March 2012</p>

<p>3. That, as far as possible given current and future budget constraints, existing high standards of weed control, and weed-free environments, are maintained at key sites such as the Cenotaph and town centre areas.</p>	<p>Weed control is to be brought back under council delivery for 2011. Environment Services is training up to 20 additional personnel in weed control certification to ensure that hot spot areas which appear after/during the three main chemical applications can be addressed. It will also ensure that prestigious areas will also have an enhanced weed control.</p>	<p>Keith Garland</p>	<p>Cost saving</p>	<p>April 2011 – October 2011</p>
<p>4. Following 3. above, the use of Community Payback labour should continue to be used wherever and whenever appropriate to assist in taking a pro-active approach to weed control wherever possible.</p>	<p>All opportunities for utilising additional resources will be taken. These include Community Payback, Urban Blitz, apprentices and volunteer groups.</p>	<p>Keith Garland</p>	<p>Nil</p>	<p>April 2011 – March 2012</p>