

Executive response to recommendations on from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 4 December 2024

Ubico Business Plan 2025-26

Recommendation	Agree (Y / N)	Comment	Responsible Executive Member	Lead Officer
1. That the Council asks that Ubico reviews its policy on the use of pesticides and herbicides.	Y	<p>Ubico have review its policy on the use of pesticides and herbicides.</p> <p>They considered alternative methods of weed control and to include products such as New Way and Finalsan. However, officers completed extensive research on the options and associated costs, and established that locally the quantities applied on Council owned land had been reduced to 12 litres per season at a cost of circa £200. Changing to alternatives like New Way and Finalsan would cost between £7-10k a year.</p> <p>Treatments only take place in public car parks, Depots, and at Woodgreen and not in playgrounds or open spaces.</p>	Cllr Lidia Arciszewska, Executive Member for the Environment	Bill Oddy, Assistant Director
2. That the Council asks that Ubico reviews the content of the HVO (hydrogenated vegetable oil) fuel to assess whether it contains palm oil.	N	Ubico does not use hydrogenated vegetable oil (HVO) in any council vehicles.	Cllr Lidia Arciszewska, Executive Member for the Environment	Bill Oddy, Assistant Director



3. That the Council asks that Ubico reviews flood support and emergency plans in areas with frequent flooding to address provisions for missed bin collections in the instance of flooding.	Y	<p>This is done as part of Ubico's Business Continuity Planning.</p> <p>There is a business continuity plan in place between West Oxfordshire DC (Emergency Contingency, and Flooding Teams) and Ubico. This details how Ubico will respond to meet the Council's needs, and how waste and recycling will be collected should adverse weather impact on the daily services.</p>	Cllr Lidia Arciszewska, Executive Member for the Environment	Bill Oddy, Assistant Director
4. That the Council considers how it communicates with its residents on how to recycle glass, for instance by including this information in the council tax leaflet.	Y	<p>The council has an annual communications plan and this includes key messages about waste and recycling which is distributed through various communications channels.</p> <p>We regularly communicate with residents via the web site, bin hangers and stickers, as well as publicity on vehicles, social media, direct mailing, and via e-newsletters.</p>	Cllr Lidia Arciszewska, Executive Member for the Environment	Bill Oddy, Assistant Director