


CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Council		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	11th December 2025 7.00 pm	LOCATION	Congleton Town Hall
REPORT FROM	Chief Officer		
AGENDA ITEM	9.1		
REPORT TITLE	Weed Spraying Quad Bike		
Background	<p>A significant volume of recent reports from residents concerns the prevalence of weeds throughout Congleton. This issue largely stems from Cheshire East Council's decision to cease weed-spraying activities across the borough. In the absence of clear guidance or a revised service offer from Cheshire East, the current assumption is that this function will not be reinstated by them. Town and parish councils may therefore be required either to commission Cheshire East to undertake the work at cost, or to deliver the service independently. At present, no formal direction has been provided regarding any future service development or devolution.</p> <p>To explore potential local solutions, the Town Council has been trialling an Eco Charger quad bike fitted with the latest Nomix VMU spray system. This equipment is currently in use by several other councils, and we are engaging with them to gather feedback on performance and operational considerations.</p>  <p>To explore potential local solutions, the Town Council has been trialling an Eco Charger quad bike fitted with the latest Nomix VMU spray system. This equipment is currently in use by several other councils, and we are engaging with them to gather feedback on performance and operational considerations.</p> <p>The new quad bike model retails at just over £15,000, with the spray system priced at approximately £4,000. We have been offered a three-year-old demonstration unit, with only minimal hours of use, for £7,000 plus VAT. This price has been negotiated and the equipment is being held for us until the week commencing 15 December 2025.</p> <p>The proposed operational plan is to undertake weed-spraying across Congleton three times per year, with each cycle expected to take</p>		

	<p>approximately three weeks. While the annual cost of weed-spray materials is difficult to quantify precisely, current estimates indicate an annual expenditure in the region of £30,000.</p> <p>In addition to its weed-spraying capability, the quad bike is a versatile asset that can also be used for other tasks around the town and park areas through the attachment of a small trailer.</p>
Financial	The cost to purchase would be £7000 plus VAT, which would be paid for via the capital reserve, and the weedkiller costs would be a budget line each year.
Environmental	The Eco Charger bike would be more carbon-friendly, and regular weed spraying and clearing would reduce local flood risks, assuming Cheshire East continue to do the drain clearing
Equality and Diversity	A current driving license is required to drive the quad bike, and we are not aware of adaptations that are available to support people with physical limitations.
Decision Request	To approve the purchase of the Eco Charger Quad Bike for £7,000 plus Vat