

Environmental Impact assessment

1. Name of activity:	Greenspace Grounds Maintenance Contract Renewal				
2. Main purpose of activity:	To renew the contract between North Herts and John O’Conner for grounds maintenance operations				
3. List the information, data or evidence used in this assessment:	Research was carried out with JOC during the contract review period to establish feasibility around electric vehicles, electric machinery and the use of HVO for fuelling vehicles.				
Area of Potential Impact	Examples to Consider (non-exhaustive)	Neutral (X)	Negative (X)	Positive (X)	<i>Describe the contribution/impact on the area that the decision may have - assess whether this impact is a negative or positive or neutral one.</i> Negative: What are the risks? Positive: What are the benefits?
					Negative
1. Impact on greenhouse emission and support adaption to the effects of climate change	Will energy needs be met through renewable sources?				A high percentage of the work under the contract will be undertaken using diesel-fuelled vehicles.
	Will it reduce emissions through retrofitting new technology?		X		Positive
	Will it reduce greenhouse gas emissions by reducing energy consumption and the need to travel?				An increased percentage of the work under the contract will be undertaken using equipment powered by electricity, including 1 EV, 2 hybrid vehicles, and 18% of John O’Conner’s equipment.
2. Use of natural resources including water and energy	Will it reduce water consumption?				Negative
	Will it reduce energy consumption?		X	X	John O’Conner uses some electricity and water to fuel their vehicles and equipment as part of their grounds

maintenance operations under the terms of their contract with North Herts.

Positive

Efficient machinery, reduced unnecessary journeys and sustainable planting approaches can reduce fuel, energy and water consumption across grounds maintenance operations.

Negative

Intensive maintenance or inappropriate management of soils and drainage could potentially increase surface run off or reduce natural infiltration

Positive

Maintaining grassland, trees, planting and drainage features can support natural water infiltration and contribute to local flood resilience.

<i>3. Minimisation of flood risks to the area (i.e. promotion of SUD's. protect surface and ground water quality)</i>	Will it minimise flood risk from all sources of flooding? Will it reduce property damage due to storm events/ heavy rainfall by improving flood resistance and flood resilience?			x	Negative Intensive maintenance or inappropriate management of soils and drainage could potentially increase surface run off or reduce natural infiltration Positive Maintaining grassland, trees, planting and drainage features can support natural water infiltration and contribute to local flood resilience.
<i>4. To protect, enhance and create environments that encourage and support biodiversity</i>	Will it protect, enhance and increase biodiversity and protect habitats? Will it improve access to and promote educational value of sites of biodiversity interest?			x	Negative Frequent mowing, intensive horticultural management or inappropriate vegetation clearance could reduce habitat value and disturb wildlife if poorly managed. Positive

					Appropriate grassland management, tree care, wildflower areas and reduced pesticide can protect habitats, increase biodiversity and improve ecological value.
5. To improve Air Quality <i>(air quality describes how polluted the air we breathe is)</i>	Will it improve air quality? Will it reduce emissions of key pollutants?		X	X	Negative
					Ground maintenance machinery can generate emissions during intensive maintenance operations.
					Positive
					Well maintained trees, shrubs and vegetation contribute to air quality, while efficient machinery and reduced vehicle movements can help reduce emissions.
6. To reduce need to travel, the use of private motorised vehicular transport as well as encourage walking, cycling, and use of public transport	Will it encourage increased walking, cycling and use of public transport? Will it increase the proportion of journeys using modes other than a car?		X	X	Negative
					Vehicle movement between sites increase exhaust emissions.
					Positive
					Maintaining grass verges, paths, parks and green spaces provide safe and attractive and accessible route that can encourage walking and cycling.

				X	Negative
--	--	--	--	---	-----------------

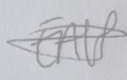
7. To reduce waste production and increase recycling, recovery and reuse of waste	Will it lead to reduced consumption of materials and resources?				
	Will it reduce household waste?				Positive
	Will it reduce construction waste?				John O'Conner empty bins in parks under the contract with North Herts which includes recycling bins and they separate out recycling in bins on some sites.
	Will it increase recovery recycling and re-use?				
8. To enhance the public realm and street improvements	Will it reduce litter?				Negative
	Will it enhance the quality of public realm?			x	Positive
					High-quality maintenance of parks streetscapes, and green space improves the appearance and usability of public areas and can discourage litter and antisocial behaviour.
9. To protect, enhance and seek opportunities to increase open space	Will it improve open space?				Negative
	Will it improve landscape character?				
	Will it minimise development on Greenfield sites?			x	Positive
					Effective management of parks, open spaces, trees and landscape features protect their character, quality and recreational; value for existing and future communities.
	Will it reduce noise pollution from vehicles?		x	x	Negative

*10. To reduce noise and
impact of noise*

Mowers, strimmer's, blowers and other
grounds maintenance machinery
generate temporary noise.

Positive

The increase of electric equipment and
well maintained minimises unnecessary
noise and reduce disturbance to
residents, wildlife and park users.

6.0 Results			
	Yes	No	
Were positive impacts identified?	x	☐	John O'Conner's work under their contract with North Herts provides a number of improvements to the functional, aesthetic, and ecological value of North Herts' green spaces.
Were negative impacts identified (what actions were taken)	x	☐	Use of equipment fuelled by non-sustainable sources is kept to a minimum (only where alternatives are not possible).
7.0 Consultation, decisions and actions			
Describe the decision on this activity (refer to section 3.2)			
Adjust the decision			
List all actions identified to address/mitigate negative impact or promote positive impact			
Action	Responsible person		Completion due date
Encourage John O'Conner to procure and use more electric vehicles and equipment under contract with North Herts	Thomas Ayres		Bi-annually during contract term
When, how and by whom will these actions be monitored?			
Actions monitored during monthly contract meetings between North Herts and John O'Conner overseen by Thomas Ayres and Alan North, as well as oversight in monthly meetings between the Greenspace management team and the Director of Environment			
8.0 Signatures			
Assessor (report author):			
Name: Alan North	 Signature**		
Validated by (line manager):			
Name: Sarah Kingsley	 Signature**		
Forward to the Policy inbox: policy@north-herts.gov.uk			
 Signature**			
Assessment date: 03/09/2026		Review date: 03/06/2027	