

## CITY OF SHEFFIELD

### METROPOLITAN DISTRICT

#### MEETING OF THE HOUSING POLICY COMMITTEE – 14<sup>TH</sup> Sept 2023

#### MEMBERS' QUESTIONS - COPIES OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

##### ***Question of Cllr Barbara Masters to Cllr Douglas Johnson, Chair of the Housing Policy Committee***

##### **Q & A**

Landowners or occupiers have an obligation to control the spread of Ragwort if it poses a high risk (within 50 metres) of land used for grazing or forage production where it poses a serious risk to grazing animals.

1. Does any of the Council's housing land fall into this category?

We are not currently aware of any areas of housing land that falls into this category;

2. Does the council allow its rewilded housing land to be used to make hay or are there plans to do so?

I am advised that the council already maintains many fields around the city that are much larger and easier to take hay from or graze than housing land. We're able to make enough hay for our animals from these that there are no current plans to take hay from any housing land. We would be wary of looking at other areas as litter and dog fouling would be a serious problem contaminating the hay. In addition to this, logistically we'd not be able to bale on-site due to the smaller size of the plots so would have to cut, transport, swap machinery and then bale which wouldn't be efficient, economical, or particularly environmentally friendly.

3. How does/will it ensure it is free from ragwort?

N/A

##### ***Question of Cllr Alan Woodcock to Cllr Douglas Johnson, Chair of the Housing Policy Committee***

- Q & A** Q. Please can you confirm whether a thermographic survey has been carried out at the Westminster Estate to investigate poor insulation, and can you give me a summary of the findings?

**Response to Follow.**

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