



AGENDA ITEM: 12

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

8 MARCH 2005

CONSIDERATION OF REQUESTS FOR SCRUTINY REVIEWS

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To inform the Overview & Scrutiny Board of the proposed Scrutiny review which has been requested by a Non Exec Member.

RECOMMENDATION

2. That the Board considers the appropriateness of commissioning a scrutiny review into the suggested scrutiny topic received from the Non Exec Member.

PROPOSED SCRUTINY TOPIC

3. To consider undertaking an investigation into the provision of an "Off Road" Facility within Middlesbrough.
4. The Reasons for this request are as follows:

"To offer a safe, controlled, and stimulating facility whereby off road Motorcycles, Quad bikes, Scooters and 4x4's owners can enjoy the use of their machines.

The present and continued expected high level of ownership of these machines, and their use on the open spaced, and greens surrounding high density residential areas is a major cause of noise, nuisance and damage to the environment, and by implication, anti social behaviour.

Such a facility would be within the ownership of MBC, and the resulting revenue possibilities, which could accrue from such a facility, are explored".

5. The suggested Scrutiny topic should be considered against the following criteria:-

- (i) Does the issue affect a group of people living within the Middlesbrough area;
- (ii) Relate to a service, event or issue in which the Council has a significant stake or over which the Council has an influence;
- (iii) Not be an issue which Overview & Scrutiny has considered during the last 12 months;
- (iv) Not relate to an individual service complaint; and
- (v) Not relate to matters dealt with by another Council committee, unless the issue deals with procedure.

6. The issue could fall within the remit of a number of different panels due to its impact on land use, leisure activity and environmental impact. However, it is considered the weighing of the subject would mainly be within the remit of the Environment Scrutiny Panel.

7. There are presently examples where the nuisance "off roading" is taking place in Middlesbrough, annoying residents and mutilating land. The objective of the investigation would be to determine if the Council could provide a suitable track for Off Roding. Which would satisfy the need of off roaders, reduce the public nuisance, utilise underused land and provide an income to the Local Authority.

8. It is for the Board to consider the importance of this suggestion in light of the Panel work programme.

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