

Report of:	Executive Member for Community Safety Director for Environment and Commercial Services
Submitted to:	Executive
Date:	23 August 2023
Title:	Final Report of the Culture and Communities Scrutiny Panel – Off Road Bikes - Service Response
Report for:	Decision
Status:	Public
Strategic priority:	Crime and anti-social behaviour
Key decision:	No
Why:	Not applicable
Urgent:	No
Why:	Not applicable

Executive summary

This report gives an overview of the investigation by the Culture and Communities Scrutiny Panel into the issue of Off-Road Bikes. The report also highlights actions taken against the scrutiny recommendations and provides details regarding the further work undertaken in partnership with Cleveland Police, to tackle the issue of Off-Road bikes within Middlesbrough.

The Scrutiny Panel's three recommendations are;

1. That greater awareness is made to councillors and the general public on the dangers of Off-Road bikes;
2. That Cleveland police provide the posters to the Council's stronger community team so that these can be placed on social media sites and within the Love Middlesbrough magazine; and
3. That the excellent partnership work with Cleveland Police and the Council continue and that the panel receive an update on Operation Endurance/Edmondson 6 months after recommendations have been endorsed

The panel's recommendations have been reviewed and the appended Service Response and Action plan outlines how the Council will address them.

The impact of these recommendations is that there will be an improved awareness of the multi-agency work being undertaken to tackle the issue of Off-Road motorbikes.

Purpose

For Executive to note the final report of the Culture and Communities Scrutiny Panel (Appendix 1) and to agree the Service Response and Action Plan (Appendix 2).

Background and relevant information

The Culture and Communities Scrutiny Panel first met in October 2022 and agreed their work programme raising increasing concern regarding Off- Road bikes in the town.

The Panel wished to ask the following key questions to further their knowledge, as well as exploring avenues that the panel and local councillors could help assist the police to combat the issue.

The key questions the panel wished to ask were as follows:

- In the past 12 months, how many off road bikes have been seized and how many arrests have been made?
- How do Cleveland Police and Middlesbrough council work together?
- What powers do PSCOs have to deal with off road bikes?
- Is there any education being undertaken within primary/ secondary schools to increase awareness of Off-Road bikes?
- In your view is there anything, are there any specific areas that we, as a panel, can recommend to assist the police/ council to combat/ control the issue.
- What partners do we engage with?

The panel undertook their investigation over a series of two meetings. Also appended to this report (Appendix three to five) are several pieces of legislation and guidance documents for Executive's attention.

What decision(s) are being recommended?

1. That the content of the Children and Young People's Learning Scrutiny Panel's final report on Special Educational Needs and or Disabilities (Appendix 1), be noted.
2. That the action plan (Appendix 2), developed in response to the scrutiny panel's recommendations, be approved.

Rationale for the recommended decision(s)

Scrutiny conducted a review of this topic which resulted in these recommendations being proposed. Officers of the Council have reviewed these recommendations and set out how they can be achieved.

Other potential decision(s) and why these have not been recommended

Not support the recommendations from the scrutiny report. This would result in the Council missing an opportunity to improve the service offered to members of the community.

Impact(s) of the recommended decision(s)

Improved awareness of the multi-agency work being undertaken to tackle the issue of Off-Road motorbikes.

Legal

There are no legal implications in regard to the actions that are suggested to be taken further to the recommendations of the scrutiny panel.

Strategic priorities and risks

Strategic Priority: reducing crime and antisocial behaviour:

The scrutiny of this topic aligns with the two of the Council's three core aims set out within the Strategic plan 2021-24.

People - Working with communities and other public services in Middlesbrough to improve the lives of local people.

Place - Securing improvements in Middlesbrough's housing, infrastructure and attractiveness, improving the town's reputation, creating opportunities for local people and improving our finances.

Risks: The risk of not implementing these recommendations is that there will be a lack of awareness relating to what Middlesbrough council is doing with partners to tackle the issue.

Human Rights, Equality and Data Protection

It is not anticipated that this project will impact negatively on any members of the public.

Financial

There is no financial implication to delivering the recommendations within the report and they will be delivered as BAU.

Actions to be taken to implement the recommended decision(s)

Action	Responsible Officer	Deadline
Please see Appendix 2 (Service Response Action Plan)		

Appendices

1	Final Report of the Culture and Communities Scrutiny Panel
2	Service Response - Action Plan
3	CPN Procedure update 2023
4	Strategy to tackle Motorbike Issues
5	Crime stoppers Leaflet
6	Statutory Guidance ASB Crime and Policing Act 2014

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