

**ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS**

<b>1.</b>	<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Improving Places Select Commission</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2013</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Title:</b>	<b>The Off Road Motor Vehicle Prevention function</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Directorate:</b>	<b>Environment and Development Services</b>

**5. Summary**

The report outlines the changes to the arrangements for managing the Off Road Motor Vehicle nuisance.

**6. Recommendations**

**That the report is noted**

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**7. Proposals and Details**

The Off Road Motor Vehicle Prevention function transferred from NAS to Streetpride - Leisure and Community Services - from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012. Prior to the transfer, savings were agreed in the review of 2012/13 budget which left a net budget of £48,000 per annum and meant that approximately 90% of the operational budget was given up; as a result there was a much reduced capacity to undertake preventative works. The budget for operational works was less than £9,000 when the service was transferred.

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Following the transfer of the function to EDS, a review of the service was undertaken which confirmed that:

- South Yorkshire Police are the agency responsible for enforcement against any individuals who engage in off road motoring causing nuisance and criminal damage. This form of anti social behaviour affects landowners and adjacent residents.
- The Landowner where the off road motoring is taking place is responsible for providing and maintaining boundary measures to prevent inappropriate vehicular access. Some of the land is Council owned but often the land where the activity is taking place is owned privately.

Changes in the management arrangements resulted from the review which resulted in the disestablishment of the single associated post (Off Road Motor Vehicle Prevention Officer) with responsibilities transferring to other managers within Leisure and Community Services who already have experience of dealing with this type of nuisance. As a result this enables the general function to be retained while, at the same time, making available more budget for service delivery.

The key elements of the new service provision will be to investigate any reports in order to establish who owns the land and then offer advice and where possible assistance in stopping and preventing further incidents. However, the cost of any required target-hardening works will be the responsibility of landowner.

All contacts – telephone calls, letters or emails - relating to off road motor vehicle are now channelled through the Streetpride Leisure and Community Services Admin team and the request for service is then directed to a member of staff to investigate. The member of staff will be a responsible officer with previous experience of dealing with boundary controls to reduce anti-social behaviour from the LCS team.

The Council continues to work in partnership with South Yorkshire Police to deal with individuals and groups who engage in this anti social behaviour; links being maintained with the Inspector of each Safer Neighbourhood Team.

Leisure & Community Service staff attend SNT and NAG meetings in respect of ORMVP issues when the agenda and the service determine it is necessary; this reflects current approach across all areas of Streetpride, and reflects the need to use scarce management resources effectively. The benefits of this larger pool of Officers will give more flexibility to deal with this type of nuisance.

The '**Streetpride Connect**' scripts have been reviewed to ensure that relevant information is captured at the first point of contact. All telephone contacts which are not successfully resolved through 'Connect' are directed through the Leisure and Community Services Admin (LCS Admin); this team provide business support to the group and will then determine the most appropriate Organisation or Council Officer to whom the call should be directed. All email correspondence is directed to the LCS

Admin e-mail address and again the team redirect the contact to the most appropriate Council Officer.

Expenditure on preventative works during the 2012/13 financial year was only about half of the available budget, and the number of contacts received both directly and from SYP was minimal. Ongoing issues in 2013/14 include:

1. Yarwell Drive, Maltby - cars driving over privately owned green space;
2. wooded area at Norwood (Woodhall area) but not planning to do anything as ownership issues;
3. Kimberworth/Wingfield – target hardening (fencing) is being installed with a small amount of match-funding from RMBC (£4k) and the majority coming from Sport England;

As part of their 2013/14 Team Action Plans, Streetpride’s managers of land assets (such as Green Spaces and Public Rights of Way) are preparing a list of priorities for target-hardening; while it is anticipated that this will exceed the previous budget allocation for works, the disestablishment of the post of ORMVP Officer will allow an increased amount of work to be undertaken.

## **8. Finance**

There are no financial implications in the report.

## **9. Risks and Uncertainties**

There were some risks attached to the disestablishment of the post of ORMVP Officer, not least onto the capacity of other managers to effectively handle reports of ORMV nuisance; this has proven not to be the case so far.

## **10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications**

Tackling the problem of anti social off road nuisance contributes to ***'Helping to create safe and healthy communities'*** by working with the Police and partners to reduce crime and make communities safe, and to develop and improve the way we deal with anti-social behaviour.

## **11. Background Papers and Consultation**

N/A.

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