



Meeting of the Council

**Monday, 15th April, 2024 at 6.00pm
in the Council Chamber
The Council House, Priory Road, Dudley**

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council for the purpose of transacting the business set out in the numbered agenda items listed below.

Agenda - Public Session (Meeting open to the public and press)

Prayers

1. Apologies for absence
2. To receive any declarations of interest under the Members' Code of Conduct
3. To confirm and sign the minutes of the meetings held on 26th February and 4th March, 2024 as correct records (Pages 8 - 36)
4. Mayor's Announcements
5. To receive reports from meetings as follows:

Meetings of the Cabinet dated 11th and 20th March, 2024

Councillor P Harley to move:

- (a) 2023/2024 Revenue and Capital Programme Monitoring (Pages 37 - 57)
- (b) Council Plan 2022-25 (Pages 58 - 62)



Councillor Dr R Clinton to move:

- (c) [Dudley Council Climate Action Plan \(Pages 63 - 97\)](#)
- 6. [Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2023/24 \(Pages 98 - 148\)](#)
- 7. Notice of Motion
 - (a) To consider the following notice of motion received from Councillor R Priest on 8th February, 2024:

Tackling Anti-social use of Off-Road Vehicles

“Anti-social use of off-road vehicles, including quadbikes, motorbikes, scramblers and mini motors is an issue that affects many parts of the borough, and is causing particular nuisance in parks and green spaces. While the use of these vehicles is permitted on private land with the land owners permission, the Road Traffic Act 1988 prohibits their use where no permission has been given.

The Council recognises that tackling the anti-social use of off-road vehicles requires a proactive multi-agency approach involving the local authority, neighbourhood police teams, the wider West Midlands Police and the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner.

The Council also recognises that in parts of the borough, there has been a failure to respond appropriately to the anti-social use of off-road vehicles.

The Council additionally recognises that Stevens Park, Wollescote, is one part of the borough where there has been a failure to respond appropriately to the anti-social use of off-road vehicles.

The Council expresses its dissatisfaction with the response of the Police and Crime Commissioner for failing to adequately address the issue of the use of anti-social use of off-road vehicles in the Dudley Borough, particularly in Stevens Park, Wollescote.

The Council therefore resolves to:

- Ask the relevant Officer to conduct a survey amongst the elected Members of this Council asking Members to identify areas within their ward where anti-social use of off-road vehicles occurs and use the results of this survey to improve signage discouraging the use of off-road vehicles.
- Introduce a system where elected Members can report addresses to the Council which are suspected to be involved in the anti-social use of off-road vehicles, and the Council to send letters to these addresses outlining the legality of the anti-social use of off-road vehicles and the consequences of their continued use.
- Ask the relevant Directorate to install a trip rail fence around the perimeter of Stevens Park, Wollescote, while maintaining access points for pedestrians, pushchairs, and wheelchairs.
- Instruct the Chief Executive to write to the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner informing them of this motion, and the Councils' dissatisfaction with the response of the Police and Crime Commissioner for failing to adequately address the issue of the anti-social use of off-road vehicles in the Dudley Borough, particularly in Stevens Park, Wollescote.
- Instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Mayor of the West Midlands Combined Authority in May, once the result of the election to the post is known, requesting an urgent meeting to develop a strategy to tackle the anti-social use of off-road vehicles. This meeting should involve appropriate Cabinet Members, Ward Councillors, and community groups."

NB: The above motion was moved by Councillor R Priest and seconded by Councillor J Clinton at the Council meeting on 26th February, 2024.

The following amendment was moved by Councillor L Taylor-Childs, seconded by Councillor N Neale and debated at the Council meeting on 26th February, 2024.

“Anti-social use of off-road vehicles, including quadbikes, motorbikes, scramblers and mini motors is an issue that affects many parts of the borough, and is causing particular nuisance in parks and green spaces. While the use of these vehicles is permitted on private land with the land-owner’s permission, the Road Traffic Act 1988 prohibits their use where no permission has been given.

The Council recognises that tackling the anti-social use of off-road vehicles requires a proactive multi-agency approach involving the local authority, neighbourhood police teams, the wider West Midlands Police and the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner.

This issue is prevalent in a number of areas in the borough including, but not limited to, Wollescote Park, Quarry Bank, Wordsley and Brierley Hill. It is recognised that, locally, there has been a joined-up approach to tackling this issue within the Community Safety Partnership. However, this work is hindered by the lack of regional support and resource from the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Both strategy and resource is important to tackling this issue, the PCC recently funded just three off-road bikes for Police use across the West Midlands area. The Council expresses its dissatisfaction with the response of the Police and Crime Commissioner for failing to adequately fund resource to address the issue of the anti-social use of off-road vehicles in the Dudley Borough.

The Council therefore resolves to:

- Recognise the impact this behaviour is having on local residents and businesses and resolves to renew its approach to tackling the issue.
- Instruct the Chief Executive and relevant Cabinet Member to write to the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner informing them of this motion, and the Council’s dissatisfaction with the response of the Police and Crime Commissioner for failing to adequately address the issue of the anti-social use of off-road vehicles in the Dudley Borough.

- Identify a single point of contact within the Community Safety Team for reporting the specific incidents of the anti-social use of off-road bikes. These figures will be communicated to the Police via existing reporting methods within the Community Safety Partnership, with a focus on ensuring intelligence (such as addresses of stored bikes) being followed up by Police and/or Housing Management.
- Instruct the Chief Executive and relevant Cabinet Member to write to the Mayor of the West Midlands Combined Authority in May, once the result of the election to the post is known, requesting an urgent meeting to develop a strategy to tackle the anti-social use of off-road vehicles. This meeting should involve appropriate Cabinet Members, Ward Councillors, community groups and other affected organisations such as the Canal and River Trust.
- Consider the implementation of physical preventative measures, such as trip rails, fencing and entry points when the financial position of the authority allows.
- Ensure that the Council is utilising deployable CCTV, where intelligence indicates there would be a benefit to investigations, to monitor problem areas.”

8. Questions from Members under Council Procedure Rule 11
9. To consider any business not on the agenda which by reason of special circumstances the Mayor is of the opinion should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972

Distribution: All Members of the Council



Chief Executive

Dated: 5th April, 2024

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General

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