

Report of	Meeting	Date
Head of Property Services (Introduced by the Executive Leader)	Executive Cabinet	29.09.05

## OFF ROAD MOTORCYCLING IN THE BOROUGH

### PURPOSE OF REPORT

- To seek instructions on the establishment of an off road motorcycling facility in the Borough.

### CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- This issue does not feature in the Council's corporate priorities

### RISK ISSUES

- The issues raised and recommendations made in this report involve risk considerations in the following categories:

Strategy		Information	
Reputation	✓	Regulatory/Legal	
Financial		Operational	
People		Other	

- The issue of off road motorcycling revolves around satisfying a social/recreational need without imposing unduly upon the community served by the Council. It inevitably brings with it a need for extensive consultation on proposals which may conflict with the aspirations of the community and could lead to a decision by the Council which is not universally popular.

### BACKGROUND

- In response to an increasing incidence of unauthorised off road motorcycling experienced in the country parks and other areas of open space owned by the Council a small officer working group was established to see how the problems could best be addressed.
- The working group comprised representatives of the Council, Police and motorcycle enthusiasts and, earlier this year produced a consultation document on the issues which was presented to all parish Councils for consideration. Whilst the response was favourable to the general principle of solving or reducing the problem by providing a purpose built facility there was a good deal of debate on the site suggested, at Chisnall lane, Coppull. As a result of representations from the Parish Council and local residents the ideas for this location were not pursued and other options have been looked at by the group.
- The best alternative found by the working group is a Council owned site at the former Duxbury Colliery, Wigan Lane, Chorley and a briefing paper has been prepared covering

background issues and site details for consideration by the Executive Cabinet. Although, at this stage, no formal consultation has been undertaken I have, as a matter of courtesy, notified Coppull Parish Council, Adlington Town Council and Chorley's MP. All have lodged objections to the proposed site and suggested the Council should seek a more suitable site elsewhere. In addition a number of objections have been received from local residents as indicated in the briefing paper which is attached.

#### **COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF HUMAN RESOURCES**

8. There are no HR implications in this report.

#### **COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE**

9. There are no financial implications associated with this report. However should a site be found/agreed the report indicates that funding from Chorley Borough Council would be required. At this stage no budget from the Council's programme has been allocated to this project. In addition there would also be the opposing costs of using the site for this purpose rather than perhaps an alternative use.

#### **CONCLUSIONS**

10. In conjunction with the Police, our Neighbourhood Wardens continue to restrict the unauthorised use made of areas of open space by off road motorcyclists but recommend that a long term solution is sought in the form of a local, dedicated facility. It is clear, however, from the limited consultation that has taken place to date that the issues highlighted in the briefing report, in particular noise, traffic & ecology, are of major significance to local people and may be in conflict with such a solution.

#### **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

11. Members instructions are sought on -

- a) Whether the Council should seek to establish a dedicated off road motorcycling facility in the Borough.

And if so

- b) Whether the site identified in the briefing paper at the former Duxbury Colliery should be pursued through a full consultation process.

#### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

12. To determine the way forward on the establishment of an off road motorcycling facility in the Borough.

#### **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

12. Continued short & medium enforcement without a long term plan.
13. Other, more remote sites have been considered but rejected on the grounds of accessibility.

ROGER HANDSCOMBE  
HEAD OF PROPERTY SERVICES

There are no background papers to this report.

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