

## Council – 4 November 2024

### Decision note

Item	Decision
1. Elect Person to Preside	Not applicable as the Mayor was in attendance.
2. Apologies	Councillors Larden, Nasreen, Parkes, Wilson, Bains, Hassan, and Murphy.
3. Minutes	That the minutes of the meeting held on 23 <sup>rd</sup> September 2024 be approved as a correct record.
4. Declarations of interest	None.
5. Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985	There were no items in private session.
6. Mayor's announcements	Received.
7. Petitions	None received.
8. Questions	<b>From the Public:</b> None <b>From Members:</b> The questions from members were responded to.
9. Annual Audit Report 2023/24	That the Annual Report of Audit Committee 2023/24 be approved.
10. Recommendation of Licensing and Safety Committee –  Street Trading Review – Change of Designation to Consent Streets	That the Council, in pursuance of the powers conferred upon it by virtue of Section 3 and schedule 4 paragraph 2 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982, authorises the designation of all streets in the controlled borough of Walsall as consent streets with effect from 1 December 2024; and that the prescribed statutory notice of intention be published accordingly.
11. Appointment of an Independent Member to Audit Committee	Mr D Walsh appointed as an Independent Member to the Audit Committee with immediate effect for a four-year Term of Office concluding at the end of 2027/28 Municipal Year.
12. Planning Committee Appointment	Councillor Rasab appointed for the remainder of the Municipal Year.

13. Appointment of Planning Committee Chair	Councillor Bird appointed for Chair for the remainder of the Municipal Year.
14. Appointment to Outside Body  Harpers, Marsh, and Crumps Almshouse Charity	Councillor Russell appointed for the remainder of the Municipal Year.
15. Portfolio holder briefings	<p>The following portfolio holders gave a presentation and answered questions from members thereon: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Councillor Andrew – Deputy Leader and Economic Growth and Regeneration</li> <li>• Councillor Elson – Children and Young People</li> </ul>
16. Notice of Motion – Off-road bikes in our neighbourhoods	<p><b>Motion:</b> This Council acknowledges the persistent problem posed by off-road bikes in our neighbourhoods, which have become a societal scourge affecting residents across the Walsall Borough, county, and indeed the country. Despite with our partners our ongoing operational response, the challenges presented by these machines extend beyond mere law enforcement and require a comprehensive approach.</p> <p><b>We resolve to:</b></p> <p><b>1. Recognise the Challenge:</b> Acknowledge that off-road bikes are a significant nuisance in our communities, creating safety hazards and disrupting the quality of life for residents.</p> <p><b>2. Advocate for Legislative Change:</b> Urge the government to consider enacting legislation that makes it an offence to supply these machines to young people. Additionally, we call for enhanced powers for law enforcement to enter premises and seize these vehicles more effectively.</p> <p><b>3. Enhance Operational Responses:</b> Continue our operational responses to this issue, while recognising that current efforts often result in minimal outcomes at court. We seek to balance immediate action with long-term solutions.</p> <p><b>4. Collaborate with Stakeholders:</b> Direct our officers to collaborate with local partners, and neighbour authorities'</p>

following proven successful strategies to tackle this issue more effectively.

**5. Public Awareness Campaign:** Implement a public awareness campaign to educate residents about the risks and consequences associated with off-road biking, fostering community support for solutions.

**Conclusion:**

The Council calls on all members to support this motion as we seek to address the challenges posed by off-road bikes in a holistic manner. Together, we can work towards creating safer, more peaceful communities for all residents.

**Action Requested:**

Resolve to write to the Minister of State for Crime and Policing outlining the above and seeking a commitment to investigate strengthening the law.