

## **Opposition Motion 1: Tackling the Anti-Social Use of Off-Road Motorbikes, E-Bikes and E-Scooters- REFORM UK AMENDMENT**

**To be Moved by Councillor Lewis Quigg**

**To be Seconded by Councillor Mark Wilkinson**

There has been a national spike in the anti-social use of off-road motorcycles, e-bikes, and scooters on UK roads and in public places.

And whilst there are trial schemes for e-bikes and e-scooters operating in Greater Manchester it is illegal for some vehicles and those not in trial schemes to be used on public highways and in public spaces.

There is a myth that the Police cannot do anything which is not true. The Police will act even when riders are not wearing helmets but only in a targeted approach made by trained officers. In fact, Greater Manchester Police (GMP) has a dedicated team of Officers.

This Council Acknowledges:

- That Greater Manchester Police's resources are finely stretched, and that Oldham Council cannot just ask for GMP to put resources into Oldham without a strongly evidenced basis.
- Oldham Council recognises that GMP officers will use up-to-date intelligence to help direct them to areas of concern. Recent successes have been seen with Operation Vulcan and Operation AVRO - Oldham must do its bit to help the Police.
- Most motorbike, e-bike, scooter riders, use their vehicles in a safe and considerate manner and abide by the law. Sadly, there are those that don't, and this poses a serious risk to not only themselves, but other road users also.
- People can easily purchase e-bikes or e-scooters blissfully unaware they are not intended for use on the public highway or in public spaces having a logic that 'if they weren't legal, they wouldn't sell them.'
- That Oldham Council must work more closely with communities and organisations to generate a campaign to advise our residents of how and when to report issues.
- Oldham Council must continue working alongside GMP, housing providers, other partners and communities to get a message out that is clear about what constitutes an irresponsible user so that those who pose no threat to others carry on enjoying them sensibly and legally, and those that are not can be dealt with appropriately

This Council is aware that:

- Criminals are also using these modes of transport to commit further crimes, including drug supply, burglary, and theft. The anti-social use of these vehicles causes misery within our communities, impacting on the quality of life and posing a danger to those using the region's roads and open spaces.
- The tactic of using a police car to make controlled contact with a moped or motorcycle (often referred to as "tactical contact" or a "tactical stop") is

governed by national standards set by the College of Policing and the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC). This guidance applies to all police forces across England and Wales, not just the Metropolitan Police in London. The key requirement is that the officers involved must be appropriately trained as response and TPAC (Tactical Pursuit and Containment) drivers. The use of the tactic must be authorised by a commanding officer, who will conduct a dynamic risk assessment, weighing the seriousness of the crime against the risk to the public and the offender. The tactic was widely publicised by the Metropolitan Police as an effective measure against moped-enabled crime, which was a significant issue in London. However, the legal framework and training standards are national, enabling any appropriately trained UK police force to use it in suitable circumstances.

· This Council believes that:

Working closely with residents and partners not just the Police is key to tackling this behaviour.

- Greater Manchester Police officers will use up-to-date intelligence to help direct them to areas of concern to deter, detect and disrupt offences from taking place.

This Council resolves to:

1. Write to the Chief Constable of Greater Manchester Police Sir Stephen Watson QPM thanking him, the Officers and staff of GMP and the National Police Air Service (NPAS) for their continued hard work and dedication in tackling the anti-social use of these vehicles and ask him to ensure that this remains a priority for Greater Manchester Police.
2. To write to the Home Office and ask for further dedicated funding for GMP to use in tackling the anti-social use of off-road motorbikes, electric bikes and electric scooters.
3. To use Oldham Council's Media team and ask them to carry out a campaign educating the public into the legalities of these vehicles and encouraging residents to help build up an intelligence-led picture so that GMP can carry out targeted operations by reporting instances and homes suspected of housing anti-social users which can be done anonymously.
4. Ask housing providers such as First Choice Homes, Great Places, Guinness Partnership to work with Oldham Council's media team and develop and plan of education and intelligence to support GMP in operations to tackle the anti-social use of off-road motorbike, e-scooters, and e-bikes.
5. Write to the Chief Constable of Greater Manchester Police Sir Stephen Watson QPM asking him to make more use of the tactical contact/stopping and to ensure more officers are trained in its use, this method allows a police car to make controlled contact with a moped or motorcycle.