

CABINET

12 NOVEMBER 2021

REFERENCE REPORT FROM THE COMMUNITY AND LEADERSHIP OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

A.1 SCRUTINY OF THE LAWFUL AND UNLAWFUL USE OF E-SCOOTERS AND THE EXTENT OF THE POLICING ACTION AGAINST THOSE UNLAWFULLY USING THEM

(Report prepared by Keith Durran)

BACKGROUND

At its meeting held on 27 September 2021 (Minute 12 refers) the Community Leadership Overview & Scrutiny Committee (“the Committee”) had scrutinised the lawful and unlawful use of e-scooters and the extent of the policing action against those unlawfully using them.

The Committee heard from Tracey Vickers, Head of Sustainable Transport – Essex County Council and Fercia Weyer - Spin's Essex General Manager that in the spring / summer of 2020, the Department for Transport (DfT) had announced a proposal to trial the use of electric scooters in named pilot areas. Local authorities had been encouraged to apply to become a pilot area, and Essex County Council (ECC) had drafted proposals for Basildon, Braintree, Brentwood, Clacton, Chelmsford and Colchester. ECC had then identified a preferred supplier – Spin – and had submitted those proposals to the DfT.

ECC, in partnership with Spin, had launched the trial in Clacton on 1 March 2021. Under the trial, e-scooters hired from Spin were allowed to be ridden on roads and cycle paths. There were currently 150 Spin e-scooters in Clacton, and the town was approaching 30,000 individual rides since the trial began. The trial would run until the end of October 2021, but consideration was being given to extending the trial until March 2022.

The Committee was shown a Spin E-scooters and this was demonstrated to the Committee in order to show how a registered user would be linked to an individual E-scooter, its forward and rear lights and the panel that displayed the speed of the E-scooter to the user. The expectation for users to park the E-scooter safely and photograph it once parked was outlined to the Committee.

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION(S) TO CABINET

After a detailed discussion the Committee had **RECOMMENDED** to Cabinet:-

“That representations be made to the Department of Transport to the effect that riders of E-Scooter must be required to wear safety helmets, that E-Scooters be required to generate a low level noise to make them audible for safety reasons and that they are fitted with indicator lights.”

PORTFOLIO HOLDER COMMENT(S) AND RECOMMENDATION(S) TO CABINET

Portfolio Holder's Comments

"I endorse the Committee's recommendations that representations be made to the Department of Transport for the specified safety improvements."

Recommendations to Cabinet:

That the recommendation made by the Community Leadership Overview & Scrutiny Committee be noted and that the response of the Portfolio Holder thereto be endorsed.