

## **Call in: FP/794/08/20 Concession Contract for an Electric Scooter Hire Trial Scheme**

**Informal Meeting – 04/09/20 – 11:30**

### **Present:**

Cllr Kevin Bentley, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Infrastructure

Cllr Kerry Smith, Member for Basildon Westley Heights

Cllr Ian Grundy, Chairman of the Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee

Andrew Cook, Director for Highways and Transport

Tracey Vickers, Head of Sustainable Transport

Hilde Dahmer, Senior Strategy Advisor

Peter Randall, Senior Democratic Services Officer

Emma Tombs, Democratic Services Manager

### **Decision FP/794/08/20 was called in by Cllr Pond and Supported by Cllr Kerry Smith.**

The reasons provided for calling in the decision were:

- This document is more akin to a well written press release rather than a detailed policy document. Members deserve the right to protect the public, be it riders of the scooters or that of the rest of the public.
- Before implementation of this scheme, that there remains the need to discuss this plan with the local Borough/District Councils. This project by-passes local knowledge. For these scooters to actually work, their needs to be a working partnership with both tiers of local government.

### **Meeting notes**

Cllr Grundy welcomed participants to the informal meeting and invited Cllr Smith to share his concerns regarding the decision.

Cllr Smith reiterated the concerns outlined in the call in note, and discussed the following themes:

- Concern for the safety of residents arising from the improper use of electric scooters.
- The use of electric scooters on public pavements and footpaths.

- The lack of clarity around trial scheme locations.
- Greater detail needed around current government regulations and implementation of trial scheme.
- Concerns around engagement with district partners – particularly local Basildon politicians, working groups and officers.

Cllr Grundy then invited Cllr Bentley to respond.

Cllr Bentley introduced the officers supporting the meeting and provided the following response to points raised by Cllr Smith.

- This scheme is about promoting sustainable transport, and would compliment other ECC programmes aimed at reducing poor air quality and increasing alternatives to car travel across the county.  
The scooters are currently illegal, but the government is consulting around changes in the law to authorise their use. The decision that is being called in relates to establishing a pilot scheme to test how the future use of electric scooters could work. At this stage the decision only authorises ECC to prepare a bid to be included in the scheme.
- Electric scooters will be treated as motor vehicles for the purposes of existing road safety legislation.
- Early conversations have already taken place with police partners to prepare for potential implications on law enforcement.
- The Department for Transport have set very high safety standards for these scooters. These include speed, lighting, drivers license etc. It also includes identifying the sort of training that would be required if these scooter schemes were to be given the green light. ECC would not allowed to work with any operator who has not met these stringent tests.
- ECC are encouraged to add in additional safety measures. These could include helmet usage, geofencing, parking etc. ECC can also ensure that the parking of scooters doesn't encumber pedestrians or those with physical/visual impairments. This scheme can be discontinued following the pilot scheme if ECC is not entirely convinced that it has been safe and successful.
- Discussions have taken place with local officers in Basildon to help shape and develop proposals.

Following the discussion, the following measures were requested by Cllr Smith:

- *A briefing note to be sent to all members outlining details of the scheme, alongside a member development session later in the year.*
- *A meeting to be set up between officers and the Chairman of the Pitsea town centre working group to consult on proposals.*

Both measures were accepted by Cllr Bentley.

Cllr Grundy closed the meeting at 11:57.

Following the meeting Cllr Pond confirmed that adequate assurances had been received and that the call in had been formally withdrawn.