

**Possible e-scooter trial in Redditch**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Cllr Matt Dormer
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Ruth Bamford
Ward(s) Affected	Potentially all wards
Ward Councillor(s) Consulted	N/A

**1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS**

- 1.1 As part of the response to the current Covid19 pandemic the Department for Transport (DFT) has brought forward a proposal for e-scooter trials planned for 2021 to be held in various locations across the Country beginning this summer. The successful areas will be determined by the DFT based on submissions by local authorities and combined authorities.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

**The Committee is asked to note the update in respect of the E-scooters project.**

**3. KEY ISSUES**

**Financial Implications**

- 3.1 £10k consultancy support has been used from existing budgets to help in understanding the e-scooter market, and to support putting the bid together. There are no financial implications beyond this; all the financial risks associated with the trial are to be borne by the e-scooter operator.

**Legal Implications**

- 3.2 All liabilities associated with this trial will be the responsibility of the e-scooter operator.

**Service / Operational Implications**

- 3.3 There are 2 options to secure an e-scooter trial in Redditch, both of which will rely on securing an e-scooter operator willing to take on the risk of running a trial in what is an emerging market in the UK. The 2 options are as follows below, at the moment officers are pursuing both options
- 3.4 Option 1 – approach the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) to explore the possibility of extending the WMCA trial to Redditch.

The WMCA have already set the parameters for their trial which is focused on key areas in Birmingham, the Black Country, and Coventry. Within the WMCA tender opportunity there is an option for the chosen operator to also carry out trials in other areas of the combined authority including non-constituent areas such as Redditch. Officers have approached the WMCA to see if this is an option open to Redditch to secure a trial through this mechanism.

- 3.5 Option 2 – Redditch Borough Council secures its own standalone trial  
Should option 1 not be available to the Council RBC can also look to appoint an operator through a separate tender process. As there are no guarantees about option 1, option 2 has also been progressed, and as such an Invitation to Tender (ITT) has been published. It is hoped that the outcomes of the ITT process should be available by the time the overview and scrutiny committee considers this report. This specification element of the ITT can be seen at appendix A to this report, this identifies how and where it is envisaged that the trial will operate.

3.6 **Next Steps**

Option 1, if this option is available to RBC then the format of the Redditch trial would be included in the bid submitted by the WMCA to the DFT. The format of the RBC trial would be informed by the specification included at appendix A although it may be that some changes need to be made to allow the operator to run the trial successfully.

Option 2, if this option is the approach taken, then upon choosing a preferred supplier from the ITT process, a bespoke RBC bid will be submitted to the DFT for consideration.

In both instances the bid will need to be with the DFT before 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020. If the bid is successful it will be a DFT requirement that the trial would begin as soon as possible afterwards likely to be before the end of September 2020.

It must be remembered at this stage that this is a trial process, so even though every effort has been made to ensure the specification at appendix A will be successful, as the trial begins issues may present themselves which will require changes to be made to the operation. To enable any issues to be resolved, as part of the trial the operators and RBC will hold regular liaison meetings.

**Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications**

- 3.5 All customers of the trial must have at least a provisional driving licence, the wearing of helmets will be strongly encouraged, consideration could be given the mandatory use of helmets although it is unclear how this will be enforced.

4. **RISK MANAGEMENT**

4.1 The risks associated with this trial will be borne by the operator

**5. APPENDICES**

Appendix A – RBC e-scooter trial specification.

**6. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

DFT e-scooter trials guidance

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/e-scooter-trials-guidance-for-local-areas-and-rental-operators/e-scooter-trials-guidance-for-local-areas-and-rental-operators>

**7. KEY**

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