

NET ZERO 2030 - EBIKES AND SOCIAL VALUE

Report of: Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Officer - Planning & Regulatory Services

Status: For decision.

Also considered by:

- Cleaner and Greener Advisory Committee - 28 June 2022
- Cabinet 7 July 2022

Key Decision: No.

This report supports the Key Aim of: The Council's commitment to Net Zero 2030.

Portfolio Holder: Cllr. Margot McArthur

Contact Officer(s): Richard Morris, Ext, 7139; Helen French, Ext. 7357; Margaret Carr, Ext. 7341

Recommendation

- a. Cabinet authorises the engagement of a consultant to assess the overall feasibility of introducing an e-bike scheme in the District taking into account scheme demand, geographical coverage, economic case, fleet assumptions, cost and tariff plans, delivery and operating options and scheme risks; and
- b. Cabinet authorises the engagement of the same consultant to develop a business case for a feasible scheme if such a scheme is deemed achievable by the consultant; and
- c. Cabinet agrees that these initial costs will be funded from the Net Zero Reserve.

Reason for recommendation:

As set out in this report and in a fuller report to follow, preparatory investigation is necessary in order to fully inform the Member decision-making process.

Introduction and Background

- 1 The Council have committed to working towards net zero carbon emissions for the Council and its assets by 2030. We have also committed to work with communities and partners to reduce carbon emissions across the District.
- 2 Transport is the second largest emitter of carbon within the District accounting for 36% of emissions within the influence of the Local Authority in 2019.
- 3 The Net Zero 2030 ambition includes an action to “Promote low carbon travel and sustainable movement” and to work with Kent County Council, our community and partners to develop and encourage sustainable travel.
- 4 The Movement Strategy 2022 sets out the Council’s aims to promote sustainable movement. Including an aim to “Support suitable innovative low emission alternatives for short and long distance travel”.
- 5 The Air Quality Action Plan also identifies measures to help improve air quality including investigating “Bike Rental Schemes” and “Promotion of active travel schemes”.

Further Report

- 6 This report and a fuller report to follow proposes that a consultant to investigate an e-bike scheme should be modestly funded from the Net Zero Reserve at market rates.
- 7 Officers are currently working to produce a fuller report to aid the decision-making process and to ensure a consultant is engaged in the summer months when demand is best assessed. This fuller report will contain information on:
 - The Big Issue/ShareBike proposal
 - Homelessness
 - Governance and Procurement
 - Enforcement issues
 - Consultancy
 - Financial Implications
 - Legal Implications and Risk Assessment
 - Equality Assessment
 - Net Zero Implications
- 9 Due to the time constraints inherent to collating relevant information from internal and external sources, which was unavailable prior to the publication deadline, it was necessary to proceed on the basis of this holding report and a completed report shortly later. This item cannot be postponed until the next Cleaner & Greener Advisory Committee in the Autumn as a decision is needed to be made by Cabinet on 7 July 2022 to

enable the Council's ambition of NetZero 2030 to progress in a timely manner.

Other options Considered and/or rejected

As set out above, these matters will follow in a further report which will be placed before Members and published in advance of the meeting of the Advisory Committee.

Key Implications

Financial

To follow.

Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement

To follow.

Equality Assessment

The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

Net Zero Implications

Please note that this report only seeks authorisation for the engagement of a consultant, without making any recommendation to implement a scheme. Accordingly, the decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the council's ambition to be Net Zero by 2030. There is no perceived impact regarding either an increase or decrease in carbon emissions in the district, or supporting the resilience of the natural environment.

Conclusions

It is known that other authorities which successfully implemented a scheme first engaged consultants. With this in mind the recommendation to engage a consultant puts the Council in line with other organisations and represents a solid basis for later deciding on and approach.

Appendices

None.

Background Papers

None.

Richard Morris

Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Officer - Planning & Regulatory Services