



OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (OXFORD CENTRAL, EAST, SOUTH AND WEST AREAS) (E-SCOOTER TRIAL) (EXPERIMENTAL TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT) ORDER 2021

STATEMENT OF REASONS

In response to the Coronavirus pandemic, the Department for Transport has licenced in the Oxford area on a trial basis the use on the public highway of e-scooters being used as part of an approved rental scheme. This is a Government backed scheme and is intended to test the use and impact of e-scooters to inform possible future legislation.

Following a trial area in the Headington and Marston areas of Oxford which started in February 2021, to gain experience of the use and management of these approved e-scooters before extending the trial to the wider Oxford area, it is now proposed commencing on 21 May to extend the trial area to include the City Centre and the east, south and west parts of Oxford.

As a motor vehicle subject to a maximum speed of 15.5mph and with the ability for lower speeds to be imposed where judged necessary by 'geo-fencing' technology, and noting that rental e-scooters can only be hired by those aged 18 and over who hold a valid driving licence, it is proposed that approved e-scooters are permitted to use bus lanes and cycle lanes and to be treated as pedal cycles where existing traffic restrictions apply to motor vehicles but which exempt pedal cycles. This is to provide the users a more sustainable and Covid-safe form of clean transport.

The above Order amends the current local traffic regulation orders to permit the use of approved e-scooters.

The Department for Transport (DfT) licence will initially be for one year only, and the Order will be implemented initially on an experimental basis for a maximum of eighteen months but subject to the DfT licence also being extended. The Council will be considering in due course whether the provisions of the Order shall be made permanent.

The Experiment will be closely monitored during its operation and any comments/complaints that are received will be given due consideration with a view to deciding whether the experiment should become permanent.

The County Council continues its responsibility to consider the provision of convenient and safe movement of motor vehicles and other traffic, and the proposed measures are aimed at ensuring that ¹ danger is minimised whilst ² facilitating the effective and safe passage of traffic, and ³ access to amenities.

Detailed documents accompany this document.

Date: 13 May 2021

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for the Director of Environment and Place
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¹ Section 1 (1) (a) Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984

² Section 1 (1) (c) Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984

³ Section 1 (1) (f) Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984