

STATEMENT OF REASONS

City of Newcastle upon Tyne (E Scooters) Experimental Traffic Regulation Order 2021

The Council's reasons for making the above Order are as follows:-

To support a 'green' restart of local travel and to help mitigate reduced public transport capacity, the Department for Transport has invited several local authorities to bring forward trials of the use of the use of rental electric scooters on roads, bus lanes and cycle lanes in their areas.

Electric scooters offer the potential for fast, clean inexpensive travel that can also help ease the burden on transport networks and allow for social distancing. The trial is to be used to gather evidence on their safety, how people use them, whether the potential benefits can be realised and how to manage the downsides.

The outcome of the trial will assist the government to decide whether to make legal the use of electronic scooters on roads on a more permanent basis. Only electric scooters hired from, or operated by, authorised companies or persons can be legally used in this trial. Electric scooters not used as part of the trials will remain illegal.

In order to complete the trial, changes to the legal orders will be made to allow electric scooters to use Highways, Bus Lanes and Cycle Lanes in Newcastle upon Tyne. However, electric scooters will only be permitted on a highway subject to a speed limit of 30mph or less, and they will not be permitted to use the High Level Bridge.

The changes to the legal orders will be implemented under an experimental traffic regulation order. Objections to the scheme would be reviewed prior to a final decision being taken and pending a decision by the Department of Transport as to whether to extend the use of electric scooters permanently. During the experimental period consideration will be given to making a permanent Order in like terms.