

Agenda Item: 6
Report to: Planning, Transport & Environment Committee
Date: 2 December 2020
Subject: Electric Scooters
Summary: Electric scooter usage

Recommendation

To note the government guidance on the use of e-scooters.

Background

At the October Planning, Transport & Environment Committee Cllr Barker asked for a report to be undertaken on the current statute with regards to electric scooters.

Electric scooters are legal in the UK. However, there are lots of restrictions surrounding where they can be used.

Use on public roads

“Powered transporters” is a term used to cover a variety of novel and emerging personal transport devices which are powered by a motor, including e-scooters.

Given how powered transporters are motorised and designed, they fall within the legal definition of a “motor vehicle”. Therefore the laws that apply to motor vehicles apply to powered transporters.

It is illegal to use a powered transporter:

- on a public road without complying with a number of legal requirements, which potential users will find very difficult.
- in spaces that are set aside for use by pedestrians, cyclists, and horse-riders; this includes on the pavement and in cycle lanes.

Any person who uses a powered transporter on a public road or other prohibited space in breach of the law is committing a criminal offence and can be prosecuted.

It is legal to use a powered transporter:

- on private land with the permission of the land owner¹.

Fines

If you use a privately-owned e-scooter on any public road, cycle lane or pavement. You could get a £300 fixed-penalty notice and, if you have one, six points on your driving licence.

A comprehensive guide to e-scooter usage can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/powered-transporters/information-sheet-guidance-on-powered-transporters>

Decision Required:

To note the government guidance on the use of e-scooters.

Contact Officer: Georgina Jackson, Deputy Clerk

Date: 24th November 2020

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/powered-transporters/information-sheet-guidance-on-powered-transporters>