

Decision Record

(For use in the case of Decisions (including Key Decisions) made by Officers under Delegated Powers)

Name and job title of Delegated Officer with power under the constitution to make the decision:

Peter MacIntyre (Executive Director of City Development)

Directorate: City Development

Paragraph of Constitution relied upon:

Part 3 Section 4, Paragraph 4 (e) – Delegations to Chief Officers in exercising their delegated powers Chief Officers may accept quotes, place contracts and procure other resources within or outside the Council.

Where the decision maker is an officer authorised by the Delegated Officer to make the decision (an Authorised Officer) the name and job title of the Authorised Officer and paragraph of Directorate delegation scheme relied upon:

Mark Jackson Assistant Director Infrastructure, Planning and Transportation

Date of decision:
05/08/2020

Statement of decision made:

To appoint ZWings as an E-Scooter provider for a 12-month Trial as part of a Regional Trial across district boundaries.

Where applicable, Report(s) considered (state the title and author of the report(s):

Reasons for the decision:

To support a 'green' restart of local travel and help mitigate reduced public transport capacity, the Department for Transport (DfT) is fast tracking and expanding trials of rental e-scooters. E-scooters offer the potential for fast, clean and inexpensive travel that can also help ease the burden on transport networks and allow for social distancing.

Authorities and operators have learned many lessons since the emergence of the first dockless systems. The UK now can embed these lessons and enhance the safety, integration and benefits of e-scooters as part of large-scale trials, which will create the evidence necessary to guide final decisions about whether and – if so – how to fully legalise e-scooters.

It is important that Sunderland take part in these trials to help our economy recover from the Covid 19 pandemic by helping residents return to work in a safe manner. Timescales for the Trial are considerably tight and proposals to DfT are to be submitted by the end of August 2020. This would not allow appropriate time for the usual procurement process and a direct award to a named specialist E-Scooter provider is required.

South Tyneside Council have elected to work with ZWings as their operator for the 12 month Trial and in a regional context it would benefit both Authorities and the user if a shared resource was provided over the boundaries as a seamless route along the coastal frontage to the city centre and beyond.

This is an extraordinary opportunity for Sunderland City Council to work and integrate with adjacent local Authorities to deliver active travel options continuously through the boundaries.

There are no capital costs to the council with the only revenue costs associated with officer time which can be met from existing budgets. Set-up, liability and maintenance of the Trial would be the responsibility of ZWings.

Reputational Risk would be managed and primarily the risk would lie with Government and ZWings. We are also reliant on users of the E-Scooters to be respectful of their surroundings and other road users.

The trial is to run for 12 months, with the trial period beginning in each area as and when e-scooters become available to the public. The option for trials to continue beyond this 12-month period will be built into the legal mechanism, but any extension would be subject to the City of Sunderland's usual procurement process and open to other providers.

Temporary and emergency TRO's for shared surfaces to be put in place as part of the Government's Emergency Active Travel programme of works.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

The use of a full procurement process would not enable the council to meet the timescales set down by government and Sunderland would not be able to take part in the trial, which would have a negative impact on the city.

Appointment of an alternative provider to ZWings, would not facilitate the cross-boundary operation of a scheme.

Members/Officers/others consulted:

Paul Lewins – Transportation Development Manager (SCC)
David Marshall – Transport Policy Team Leader (SCC)
Louise McCallum - Legal (SCC)

Where the decision was made under a specific express authorisation of Council, Cabinet, a Committee, Sub-Committee or Joint Committee, the name of any member who declared a conflict of interest in relation to the decision:

N/A

In respect of any declared conflict of interest, a note of any dispensation granted by the Council's Head of Paid Service:

N/A


Is the decision a key decision as defined in the Constitution? No
If yes, on what basis?

Does the decision contain Confidential /
Exempt Information?

No

If applicable, ground on which information is confidential/exempt:

N/A

<p>Signed: ...  (Officer making decision)</p> <p>Dated: 19.08.2020.....</p>	<p>Signed: (Portfolio Holder/Chairman of Committee)</p> <p>Dated:</p>
<p>Counter Signed:</p> <p>Name (print):</p> <p>Position:</p> <p>Dated:</p>	

Notes:

[1] In the case of a key decision, officers are reminded to follow the procedure set out in the Guidance on the Making and Recording of Decisions by Officers, in order to ensure compliance with the law.

[2] It is a requirement of the Constitution that Chief Officers will consult the relevant portfolio holder and/or the Chairman of the relevant Committee prior to taking action where the action has policy or significant financial implications or where the portfolio holder or Chairman has given prior indication that he wishes to be consulted on the matter or type of matter.