

RECORD OF EXECUTIVE DECISION

Tuesday, 16 January 2024

Decision No: (CAB 23/24 43580)

DECISION-MAKER:	CABINET
PORTFOLIO AREA:	Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport
SUBJECT:	E-Scooter Trial Extension
AUTHOR:	Wade Holmes

THE DECISION

- (i) To approve the renewal of the Vehicle Special Order (VSO) for Southampton's rental e-scooter trial until 31 May 2026, in accordance with the DfT's new end date for its national trials. To delegate authority to the Executive Director Place, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport and Section 15 officer, to amend further e-scooter trial end dates if changes are made to the DfT national trial.
- (ii) To approve Southampton City Council participating in a Solent Transport led procurement to select a sole micromobility operator from summer 2024 onwards.
- (iii) To delegate authority to the Executive Director for Place, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport and Section 151 officer, to implement the rental e-scooter trial within the parameters established by the VSO and the DfT, and for Southampton City Council to enter into an operating contract with the highest scoring tenderer identified through the procurement.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

1. To facilitate the ongoing collection of e-scooter data and information that will inform national legislation for e-scooters and support the ongoing independent data validation.
2. The trial to date has demonstrated there is a demand for a rental e-scooter service in Southampton with over 82,000 users having collectively made over 1.5 million trips, between March 2021 and October 2023.
3. To understand how new innovations from the Future Transport Zone programme will interact with the e-scooter service, for example the Mobility-as-a-Service app (Breeze), and to continue to refine the service to improve uptake, safety and efficiency.
4. Bike share ridership in Southampton is below the levels required to sustain a commercially viable operation. Moving to a sole micromobility operator model will provide flexibility and economies of scale for the chosen supplier

and will improve opportunities for commercial viability in the medium term.

DETAILS OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

That Southampton City Council withdraws from the rental e-scooter trials at the end of the current trial on 31 May 2024. This was rejected as the current trial has proved popular with users, is demonstrating mode shift from private vehicles, delivering air quality outcomes, and collecting data which is useful for informing future government transport policy.

To extend the e-scooter and bike share operating contracts of the current operators. This was rejected on the basis that revenue from bike share is not sufficient to offset operational costs. The extent of the losses being incurred by the operator indicate that a 'do nothing' approach is likely to result in the operator exiting the scheme at the end of the initial contract term on 31 June 2024.

Make a direct contract award for the sole provision of micromobility to either of the incumbent operators in Southampton. Whilst this is permissible through the Bike Share and Micromobility Services Framework, it would not allow for market testing and a demonstration of best value.

OTHER RELEVANT MATTERS CONCERNING THE DECISION

None.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None.

CONFIRMED AS A TRUE RECORD

We certify that the decision this document records was made in accordance with the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2000 and is a true and accurate record of that decision.

Date: 16 January 2024

Decision Maker:
The Cabinet

Proper Officer:
Claire Heather

SCRUTINY

Note: This decision will come in to force at the expiry of 5 working days from the date of publication subject to any review under the Council's Scrutiny "Call-In" provisions.

Call-In Period expires on

Date of Call-in *(if applicable) (this suspends implementation)*

Call-in Procedure completed *(if applicable)*

Call-in heard by *(if applicable)*

Results of Call-in *(if applicable)*