

E-bikes

Council believes:

- That substantial public concern and risk is caused by use of illegally modified e-bikes and mopeds which are not authorised for public roads;
- That the government's proposal for a National Work-Related Road Safety Charter to improve compliance by employers, while a good initiative, will not be strong enough to address the menace caused by these dangerous vehicles;
- That while individuals committing offences by using these vehicles ~~on public roads, pavements, cycle paths, tow paths or anywhere else they should not do so~~ must feel the full force of the law, so too must those who tacitly support their use such as delivery platforms and retailers;
- That those who profit from the sale of kit from the illegal modification of bikes should cease doing so;

That a decision on the July 2020 e-scooter trial is also long overdue;

Council welcomes and endorses:

- Recent enforcement efforts by Thames Valley Police to seize and destroy such vehicles;
- The campaign run by the Motorcycle Industry Association (MCIA) and the Bicycle Association (BA), which presses for national guidance to identify, seize and prosecute non-compliant e-bikes, strengthened oversight of the supply chain and delivery platforms (including mandatory compliance checks for fleet operators), and stronger enforcement against online marketplaces and retailers selling non-compliant vehicles and modification kits;
- Attempts to ensure that regulations relating to the Product Regulation and Metrology Act 2025 prevent the sale of kits using lithium-ion batteries which could be used to modify bikes in an unsafe manner.

Council resolves:

- To ask the leader to write to the Secretary of State for Transport in **support of the MCIA / BA campaign, with copy to their CEOs and Oxford's MPs, to ask her to review whether existing legislation provides sufficient powers to prevent the manufacture, import, sale and advertising of products intended to unlawfully modify electrically assisted pedal cycles, to bring forward further legislation if necessary, to press for a decision on the July 2020 e-scooter trial**, and urge swift action and stronger enforcement against riders who break the law, relevant employers and those who enable illegal activity

- To ask the leader to write to the Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police and the Police and Crime Commissioner urging an increase in enforcement activity against these vehicles, with such activity being focused upon public safety, and clamping down on exploitative working practices and those who profit from such practices, and offering City Council support so far as this is feasible.