

TRANSPORT & INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGEMENT

STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday 4th September 2023

ITEM NO. 5

Update on the Introduction of E-Scooters to Fingal

Motion: Cllr T. O'Leary

"That the Chief Executive provides an update on how the Council plans to engage in the roll out of E-Scooters across Fingal, e.g., parking of E-Scooters, will there be a virtual parking bay plan in towns and villages and will Councillors and/or this Committee have a role in that planning process."

Report:

The Irish Government's Road Traffic and Roads Bill, which will regulate the use of e-scooters and e-bikes, is currently before the Oireachtas. Under this Bill, there will be classification of "powered personal transporters" that travel under 25km/h which shall be exempt from tax, insurance, registration, and licence requirements. These vehicles will essentially be treated the same as regular push bikes. However more powerful e-scooters and e-bikes that can reach speeds higher than 25km/h will fall under the same category as mopeds and motorbikes, and so will require insurance, registration, and licensing. These will be subject to the rules of the road that apply to mopeds and motorbikes.

It is expected that within the legislation there will also be technical and safety standards for e-scooters and e-bikes, like lighting and construction, and rules for

the safe use of such vehicles in public places. Under the Bill, it is expected that a number of safety measures for use in public areas will be introduced including:-

- A minimum age for use of 16 years;
- Compulsory helmets for those aged between 16 and 18; and
- A ban of use on footpaths.

It can be expected that once the legislation is passed there will be a significant increase in the number of e-scooters operating in public places, as many of the major e-scooter service operators plan to roll out rental services in urban areas through mobile apps in Ireland. Indeed, anyone who has travelled to major European cities in recent years will be accustomed to seeing many e-scooter rental points in urban areas, with rental use of those e-scooters proving very popular in those cities.

Source of Report: David Storey, Director of Services, Environment / Climate Action / Active Travel.