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KETTERING TOWN COUNCIL

REPORT FOR DECISION

Item No:- 22/061

Committee:-	Council
Date:-	14 th December 2022
Author:-	Martin Hammond, Town Clerk
Report Title:-	Consultation by NNC – Traffic enforcement measures
Wards Affected:-	All but especially William Knibb ward

1. Purpose of Report

To outline a consultation BY North Northamptonshire Council in respect of traffic enforcement measures and seek approval for a response.

2. Recommendations

Council is recommended to agree a response taking into account the comments made in section 4 of this report.

3. Information

3.1. NNC is seeking views on a proposal for it to be able to enforce traffic offences involving moving vehicles. The Department for Transport has changed legislation to enable councils to apply for the powers to enforce against moving traffic contraventions, which are currently held by the Police. This would allow enforcement to be done using ANPR (automatic number plate recognition) cameras. The benefits include improving safety for pedestrians and cyclists as well as reducing congestion, which would in turn help improve air quality. The new enforcement powers would apply across North Northamptonshire and add to the

powers the council already has to address dangerous or illegal parking, and bus lane contravention.

3.2. Taking into account road safety data, the council, in collaboration with Northamptonshire Police, has identified some specific sites for which the powers would be of benefit. These are all yellow box junctions which are repeatedly blocked, which then prevents traffic from entering the main road even when traffic signals are on a green light. This causes tailbacks, delays and frustration. The sites are (in Kettering) :

- Kettering – London Road / St Mary's Road
- Kettering – London Road / Bowling Green Road

3.3. NNC will use information gathered in its consultation to inform an application to the Department for Transport. Any future additional enforcement proposals would require their own separate public engagement before they could be implemented.

3.4. This consultation runs from Monday 7 November until midnight, Sunday 18 December 2022.

4. Proposed Response

4.1. Kettering Town Council welcomes this consultation and the measures contained within it but there is an opportunity to go further by including within its scope, enforcement of access into Newland St by vehicles not authorised to do so. Recent changes have improved the abuse of Newland St by unauthorised vehicles but have not removed it. Currently the police, sometimes supported by NNC wardens, conduct enforcement days from time to time to reduce the level of abuse by vehicles using Newland St as a cut through, but this cannot be done frequently for resource reasons. Therefore a camera led approach will be more effective in tackling the problem.

4.2. Newland St is a bus and taxi priority road, with cyclists permitted to ride in the opposite direction to the traffic. It is often busy with pedestrians and bus users crossing the road and the cycle route forms part of the wider cycle network being developed within the LCWIP for Kettering. Removing through traffic when there is a good alternative south-north route along Eskdail St would improve pedestrian and cycling safety, would help bus movements and timetable adherence and save NNC and police manpower in the future.

5. Consultation and Engagement

5.1. The Council is a consultee.

5.2 The local police command have made similar comments to the consultation as are contained above.



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6. Finance, Legal and Resource Implications

None for KTC

7. Policy Implications

The Corporate plan says –

- a) *The Council will support measures to improve public safety, road safety, and the safety of the night time economy in Kettering.*
- b) *The Council will support the development of walking and cycling infrastructure and the growth of public transport.*

Background Papers

Link to Consultation document from NNC

Email exchange with local police commanders

15.11.22