



To the Mayor of London
Copy to 'London Councils'

Future Transport London is the successor organisation to Campaign for Better Transport London group. We are dedicated to campaigning for sustainable solutions to our transport problems.

We are concerned about the forthcoming trials of e-scooters. We consider they constitute a danger to road users, both the riders themselves and also to pedestrians, particularly disabled people. As they require no effort on behalf of the rider, they fail to meet the Mayor's healthy streets criterion and from international experience will tend to replace the more sustainable modes of walking and cycling. However, it does not seem possible to ban their use entirely so it is right that there need to be regulations governing their use.

We agree with the regulations but would like to see them tightened, for example by requiring an audible signal and lights. The proposed speed limit of 15.5mph we consider to be too high. We are concerned that the very small wheels render them unstable particularly on uneven road surfaces. The riders themselves are vulnerable to accidents especially when in mixed traffic, and we urge that cycle-style helmets be mandated.

We are also concerned about the issue of enforcement. The trial is limited to the use of hired scooters but there is already a considerable number of privately owned scooters on the roads and pavements. How will these be controlled? The regulations rightly forbid the riding of e-scooters on pavements although many riders will prefer using pavements to the dangers of riding with traffic on the road. There also needs to be clear rules to prevent scooters being discarded on the pavement.

The guidance says that 'All local areas in England, Scotland and Wales can consider participating in e-scooter rental trials' but it also says 'Where trial areas include and involve several tiers of local government, the DfT recommend agreeing a lead authority'. We would suggest that it would be preferable for TfL to be the lead authority rather than local authorities as a uniform system throughout London would make for a more coherent system and avoid the problems arising when riders cross borough boundaries.

Chris Barker
Secretary
16th July 2020

