

9. Proposals for Scrutiny Reviews

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Purpose of the Report

To inform members of the Scrutiny Committee of a proposal received from Councillor John Richardson for Scrutiny to commission a review into the promotion of non-car travel throughout the district.

Action Required

- (1) Scrutiny Committee members should consider the proposal as detailed below and using the agreed scoring mechanism (attached at Appendix B to this report), agree whether to establish an appropriate Overview Commission.
- (2) If members of the Scrutiny Committee agree to establish an Overview Commission, members will need to consider when the review should commence bearing in mind existing work programme commitments.

Background

In line with the agreed Scrutiny practices and procedures, Councillor John Richardson is proposing that an Economic Vitality and Environment Overview Commission is established in order to review the role of SSDC in actively promoting non-car travel and especially, cycling.

Councillor Richardson has submitted the following information to support his proposal;

Submission from Cllr Richardson

- Are we as a Council delivering on policies already agreed in terms of promoting non-car travel?
- Is SSDC keeping abreast of current legislation and Governmental guidance on this important policy issue?
- Whilst non-car travel is multi-faceted and can incorporate many options including trains, buses and trams, bicycles would perhaps be the most appropriate focus for this review.
- There are many important reasons for SSDC to be actively looking into non-car travel solutions. Reducing our Carbon footprint is already recognised as a Corporate Objective and promoting increased use of cycles will contribute to achieving this objective.
- Car usage is increasing annually. More cars = more congestion, more congestion = more time wasted in traffic jams
- The Overview Commission could look at the role of SSDC in the following areas:
 - o Education – explaining the reasons why cycling is a good option

- Make sure cycling is safe, economical and enjoyable through well designed infrastructure
- Work to ensure that non-car travel systems are incorporated into major and mid-sizes projects.

Based on the submission from Councillor Richardson, a draft project plan has been completed and is attached at Appendix A to this report.

Councillor Richardson will attend the Scrutiny Committee meeting to discuss his proposal in more detail.

Background

None
