Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Report of The Executive Director of Neighbourhoods and the Environment
To
Cabinet
On
16th January 2020

Report prepared by: Neil Hoskins, Group Manager, Major Projects & Strategic Transport Policy

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Notice of Motion for Safer Passage Signage.

Relevant Scrutiny Committee(s): Place Scrutiny
Cabinet Member: Councillor R Woodley
Part 1 (Public Agenda Item)

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1. Purpose of Report

1.1 To respond to the Notice of Motion by Cllr Nelson as detailed in 3.1 below.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That cabinet agree to continue to support for the SEAT project and any successor DfT funded project; Encouraging and championing sustainable transport within all appropriate engineering project designs, following the principles set out in the Highway Code:

   a. Rule 163 states, *"give motorcyclists, cyclists and horse riders at least as much room as you would when overtaking a car"*

   b. Rules 59 and 60 place an onus on cyclists to wear appropriate light and reflective clothing and to use lights at night. Both these messages are conveyed by the Forward Motion and Road Safety teams as well as advising cyclists how to position themselves on the road

2.2 That cabinet agree to the use of variable message signs to regularly remind all road users of the Highway Code obligation to be aware of each other's presence and share the road responsibly

3. Background

3.1 Motion By Cllr Nelson: Safer Passing signage requested the following

   3.1.1 Southend Borough Council declared a Climate Emergency in 2019 and agreed that it must take action to tackle carbon emissions emitted in the borough. Although the Council recognises that the use of the car is important to the economy of the Borough we also recognise that we should encourage other means of transport to reduce carbon emission, including cycling.

3.1.2 One of the main reasons residents do not choose to cycle around the borough is a fear of being harmed whilst riding on the road. One notable concern are cars passing too closely when overtaking.

3.1.3 The motion requested that the Council:

- Install signage encouraging a safe passing distance of 1.5 meters on all signs as they are replaced or newly installed
- Use the borough's electronic signage systems to encourage a safe passing distance of 1.5 metres:
- Review the use of mats on the road surface to encourage a safe passing distance of 1.5 metres:

4. Other Options

4.1 To agree the request as set out in the notice of motion (3.1.3). This is not recommended as the recommendations set out in 2.2 cover the use of the electronic signage system to encourage safe driving by all vehicles, but it is not recommended to install additional signage as this can often be distracting or confusing for drivers, putting cyclists at additional risks.

5. Reasons for Recommendations

Continuation of national and local policies and codes of best practice

6. Corporate Implications

6.1 Contribution to the Southend 2050 Road Map

Connected & Smart:
1. *It is easier for residents, visitors and people who work here to get around the borough.*
2. *People have a wide choice of transport options.*
3. *We are leading the way in making public and private travel smart, clean and green.*

6.2 Financial Implications

Use of LTP and Access Fund grants to continue the above

6.3 Legal Implications

None

6.4 People Implications

None

6.5 Property Implications

None

6.6   Consultation

As required by each project

6.7   Equalities and Diversity Implications

Via scheme specific equality analysis reports.

6.8   Risk Assessment

Via scheme specific Designers' Risk Assessments

6.9   Value for Money

Via scheme specific business cases

6.10   Community Safety Implications

Each project to undergo a Road Safety Audit

6.11   Environmental Impact

Continuing designing facilities for and the encouraging the use of, via the behavioural change project, sustainable transport will positively impact the air quality and assist in tackling health inequalities by increasing walking and cycling

7.   Background Papers

None

8.   Appendices

None