

**THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF MIDDLESBROUGH
(ELECTRIC SCOOTER) EXPERIMENTAL TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER 2021**

STATEMENT OF REASONS

The Council has made the above named Order in accordance with Section 1.1 (c) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 namely for facilitating the passage on the road or any other road of any class of traffic.

The order has been made as part of a national, controlled trial by the government to understand the impact and benefits the use of Electric Scooters may have to ease the burden on the transport network. The trial is to be used to gather evidence on their safety, how people use them, whether the potential benefits can be realised and how to manage the downsides.

The outcome of the trial will assist the government to decide whether to make legal the use of Electronic Scooters on roads.

It is important to note that the changes proposed will apply only to Electric Scooters legally used as part of trials, for the duration of the trials. Electric -Scooters not used as part of the trials will remain illegal on the road, in cycle lanes and tracks, and on pavements. Only Electric Scooters hired from, or operated by, authorised companies or persons can be legally used in this trial. Changes to legislation will allow the use of legal Electric Scooters on roads for one year only.

The Tees Valley has been chosen to trial the use of Electric Scooters and the trial period will last for one year, therefore the changes to the use of various bus lanes and cycle lanes in the Borough to permit legally approved Electric Scooters to use them is being introduced as an experimental order to assess their benefits and pending a decision by the government whether to extend the use permanently or not.