

## **Questions for Full Council Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2020**

### **Question 3**

#### **From Cllr. Meredith to Councillor Nunn**

Northamptonshire County Council and a partner have recently announced a 12 month trial for providing E-scooters at various locations around the town.

Whilst these scooters can provide a sustainable and pollution means of getting around, does the leader share my concerns about the use of the scooters in areas shared with older, visually impaired or wheel chair users?

Will there be extra patrols to give advise or enforce regulations to keep pedestrians safe in places such as, the pedestrian part of Abington Street or pavements in Wellingborough and Kettering Road?

#### **Response**

Like Cllr Meredith, I recognise the value of undertaking a 12 month trial, which supports our work towards Northampton becoming Carbon Neutral by 2030. In addition, I would always want to see Northampton included in a list of towns and cities for schemes which bring investment for new initiatives, as the E-scooter scheme does.

However, a number of issues were experienced when this scheme was first introduced recently, including them being used in pedestrian areas as the question suggests, and various other forms of miss-use. I can advise that the Borough Council is in very active dialogue with the County Council regarding ways in which the scheme can ensure the safety of all residents, and this includes the fact that Police Officers, and our own Wardens and Rangers have been fully briefed on the rules around the use of the E-scooters, enabling them to enforce / guide accordingly, and for our part, the council has been able to ensure that we have had a greater presence of our own staff in the town centre and key areas, particularly over the weekend.

**Cllr J Nunn**  
**Leader of the Council.**