

NOTICE OF MOTION - SUPPORT TO TOWN AND PARISH COUNCILS AND SPEED AWARENESS SIGNS

Report of the County Solicitor

Recommendation: that consideration be given to any recommendations to be made to the County Council in respect of the Notice of Motion set out hereunder having regard to the relevant factual briefing/background papers and any other representations made to the Cabinet.

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The Notice of Motion submitted to the County Council by Councillor Connett (shown below) has been referred to the Cabinet in accordance with Standing Order 8(2) - for consideration, reference to another committee or to make a recommendation back to the Council.

A factual 'Briefing Note/Position Statement' prepared by the Chief Officer is included, to facilitate the Cabinet's discussion of the Notice of Motion.

### **Support to Town and Parish Councils and Speed Awareness Signs (Councillor Connett)**

*Parish and Town Councils across Devon should be supported in providing the popular 'flashing or vehicle activated speed awareness' signs in their communities and the current fog of bureaucracy imposed by Devon County Council is ended. We call for a simpler system to help and support our local communities tackle concerns about speeding vehicles by giving our local Highways Officers the authority to agree the number and location of the 'vehicle activated speed awareness' signs with Parish and Town Councils."*

### **Briefing Note / Position Statement from the Chief Officer for Highways, Infrastructure Development and Waste**

Devon County Council welcomes approaches from Communities interested in funding and operating their own VAS (Vehicle Activated Signs) and has worked with Parish Councils who have funded the purchase of their own, including Kennford, Chudleigh, Sticklepath and Wembury.

VAS have been shown to be effective in reducing vehicles speeds when sited appropriately and can also be an important element of a co-ordinated approach to speed management in Communities.

VAS are ideally sited where there is evidence of a speeding problem as deploying them where they are rarely activated is not good value for money. Therefore VAS (including those funded by Parish or Town Councils) are currently considered following a SCARF (Speed Compliance Action Review Forum) assessment indicating that VAS are an appropriate solution. There can be a number of reasons where officers may not support a request for VAS, for example there may not be a suitable location to place the device, or if the device would be rarely activated the investment in the installation would not be good value for money.

In June 2019 the CIRS Scrutiny Committee produced a number of recommendations as a result of the Traffic Speed Task Group, including.

Review the SCARF process to reflect changes made to the Road Safety Strategy and Speed Limits Policy, ensuring local communities have a meaningful and transparent say on proposed local schemes, using a matrix similar to that used in Torbay.

A Traffic Speed Project Group, including officers and members has been established to investigate and take forward various aspects of the recommendations of the Task Group.

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This Report has no specific equality, environmental, legal or public health implications that will not be assessed and appropriate safeguards and/or actions taken or included within the detailed policies or practices or requirements in relation to the matters referred to herein.

JAN SHADBOLT

[Electoral Divisions: All]

**Local Government Act 1972: List of Background Papers**

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**Background Paper                      Date                                      File Reference**

**NIL**