

KETTERING TOWN COUNCIL

REPORT FOR DECISION

Item No:- FC21/97

Committee:-	Finance and Governance Committee
Date:-	14 th April 2022
Author:-	Martin Hammond, Clerk
Report Title:-	Speed Devices
Wards Affected:-	All Saints, Brambleside, Pipers Hill, and William Knibb primarily

1. Purpose of Report

To seek approval for the conversion of the speed devices to solar power and to agree a management system for their location and re-location throughout the area covered by the highways licence.

2. Recommendations

The committee is recommended to

- a) Accept the quote from Messagemaker is the sum of £1264 plus VAT for solar panel conversion kits for the existing speed devices
- b) Agree that cameras should remain in situ for a minimum period before being moved and that a priority list and agreed rota of 8 locations be identified for cameras to be used during this financial year.
- c) Agree that, if necessary, specialist assistance be employed to fit and move cameras between locations.

3. Information

- 3.1. The Town Council inherited two speed warning devices purchased by outgoing members of Kettering Borough Council. They are battery powered and experience has shown that battery life is not extensive.

- 3.2. In the interests of a sustainable use of power, the corporate plan mandates an exploration of converting the devices to run on solar power, with this charging the existing batteries so that they run on during the night.
- 3.3. The supplier of the equipment - Messagemaker – have quoted for two solar panel converter kits at a cost of £1264, plus VAT.
- 3.4. The conversion kits are reported to be capable of being fitted without the need for electrical expertise, as they are low voltage, but how complex they are to fit in reality is unknown. It is possible therefore that some specialist expertise might be needed.
- 3.5. Providing solar power facilities will make the equipment more difficult to move between lamp-posts however, and therefore it might be necessary to accept that a limited number of sites can be used each year perhaps moving the equipment every quarter or two months. Again, it might be that some specialist support will be needed to relocate the devices.
- 3.6. It is suggested that a priority list of no more than 8 locations be identified for the cameras to be located throughout any one year and that an agreed rota is set out beforehand. This will reduce the ability to deal with new problem areas however.

4. Consultation and Engagement

None. A number of communities clearly suffer from excess vehicle speeds, especially on main roads.

5. Finance, Legal and Resource Implications

- 5.1. There is a budget of £2400 for speed devices; accepting this quote would probably preclude purchasing a third device this year, and it may be that some of the existing batteries might need to be replaced during the year as well. If we need to employ someone to physically fit and relocate cameras, that would also need to be borne from this budget.
- 5.2. Whilst the Council's insurance does cover both the equipment and members engaged on Council business for personal and third party liability, it is not difficult to envisage an argument about whether sufficient precautions were taken in the event of an accident whilst handling the equipment. No risk assessment has yet been produced nor is there any evidence of manual handling training or expertise on file.
- 5.3. The Councils' licence enables the devices to be mounted on lamp-posts within All Saints, Brambleside, Pipers Hill and William Knibb wards.

6. Policy Implications

The corporate plan says:-

- *"The Council will support measures to improve public safety and road safety"...*

- *“Further devices will be purchased and we will explore the option of powering them through solar power”.*

Background Papers

Quotation from Messagemaker 22/3/22

Highways steet works s50 licence and schedule

23/03/22

