

VEHICLE ACTIVATED SPEED SIGNS (VASS)

RECOMMENDATION

To note progress of the VASS project; that potential locations for VASS have been identified in Middle Ward, Pewsham Ward and West Ward and the plan to have these assessed by the Highways Authority before seeking cost estimates for any additional installation costs, maintenance and acquisition.

BACKGROUND

1. The Council meeting on 12th October 2020 agreed a project to examine the feasibility and cost of acquiring up to 3 Vehicle Activated Speed Signs (VASS) subject, inter-alia, to their suitability being assessed and the relevant authorities (Highways and Police) notified of the council's plans and invited to comment.
2. A key element of the project is the necessary support services to deploy the devices. Wiltshire Highways Authority require Councils to use qualified staff for this task; devices have to be regularly rotated between locations. To assess the cost of this service it is necessary to identify potential locations for deployment and to agree these with the Highways Authority. There are strict criteria that need to be applied and satisfied.
3. To move the project forward, as far as we are able under current restrictions, Councillors were requested on 16th December 2020 (email from Councillor Malpas) to provide details of potential locations for VASS, ideally with a consolidated response from each Ward. The email seeking this information contained details of the requirement and the Highways Authority advice about locating devices.
4. Potential locations for VASS have been identified by Middle Ward (Stockley); Pewsham Ward (A342) and West Ward (Church Road, Derry Hill).

NEXT STEPS

5. The plan is to share the locations identified by Councillors with the Highways Authority to seek their views on suitability and the requirements for any additional infrastructure that may be required – posts for the devices where no suitable posts meeting the published criteria have been identified.
6. Once a clear plan for the locations has been established, together with any necessary infrastructure works, the aim will be to understand the costs of servicing the locations by an appropriate maintainer – Ringway currently service a number of sites in Wiltshire. We should also plan to understand from the maintainer any cost variations associated with the different types of sign currently available.

7. When the cost of installation and maintenance is established, we would then seek to update the existing quotes for supply of devices and potentially seek to identify additional suppliers to ensure a broad field of potential candidates and costs to inform any decision by the Council to proceed with the project.