

**Statement: CS22.01**

**Cabinet – 24<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

**Re: Agenda item 22 - : Combined E-scooter & E-bike on-street rental scheme**

**Statement submitted by: Councillor Tom Hathway**

It is very welcome that we are finally moving to the next stage of the e-scooter trial, bringing in properly managed parking and recognising the value of e-bikes as an alternative for those that want to get in on the micro-mobility revolution but do not feel safe on a scooter or do not have a driving licence.

It was clear from the outset that allowing the operator to self-police parking spots, all of which are on the pavement, would lead to conflict with pedestrians and additional obstacles for those that already struggle the most with getting around the city due to impaired sight or mobility. There have been improvements in parking, scooter safety, and rider behaviour in Bristol since the scheme launched, but as an international company operating for several years and with differences in operating even between UK cities, it's hard to see how these issues could not have been ironed out by Voi at the start.

Rolling out council approved, on-road, parking hubs for the next phase will be vital to fully recognise the benefits of the scheme, of which the greatest must be providing a cheap, safe, and clean way of getting across the city without adding to the queues of congested traffic blighting our roads.