

**Cabinet – 10th March 2017****Liberal Democrat Comments on Community Speed Enforcement**

When this initiative was first promoted by Cabinet last month I voiced support as it is a good idea to use speed fines to fund the cost of community road safety cameras, which has been a Lib Dem policy for a while. I was even willing to overlook that this seems to have been timed to coincide with an election.

However, now a £0.5m spending commitment has appeared, giving me concerns that politics is taking priority over a sensible use of money.

I understand that it is being promoted as a trial in order to lobby the Government to agree to allow speeding fine revenue to be kept locally, but as the Government is yet to fully respond to the initial proposals, there is no evidence to suggest that this trial would go any way towards changing its mind on this policy.

As such I have great concern that we are rushing to spend such a large sum of money when we don't have a good reason to believe that it will achieve the stated goals. Communities will only be helped by this initiative if the trials lead to the Government changing its mind on its speeding fines policy.

I urge Cabinet to hold back on spending large sums on this project until we receive feedback from the Government and we can be more confident that a trial would lead to the desired outcomes, otherwise we are just spending half a million pounds on seven cameras.

Given that the Council is having to make severe cuts to vital services, it feels wrong to spend so much on a political gesture!

David Bill

Liberal Democrat Spokesman for Environment and Transport

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