

AGENDA 11, Enc v) Support for the Safety of Electric-Powered Micromobility and Lithium Batteries Act 2023

Objective

To discuss and decide on Ashington Town Council's support for the Safety of Electric-Powered Micromobility and Lithium Batteries Act 2023, aimed at improving the safety of lithium-ion batteries used in e-bikes and e-scooters, following approach by Ron Bailey, as the researcher for Lord (Don) Foster, and parliamentary advisor to [Electrical Safety First](#).

Background

The Safety of Electric-Powered Micromobility and Lithium Batteries Act 2023 has been introduced to address the growing number of fire incidents caused by lithium-ion batteries in e-mobility devices. With over 1,000 fires, nearly 200 injuries, and a dozen fatalities reported in recent years, this legislation seeks to enhance safety standards and ensure proper disposal of these batteries.

Key elements of the bill include:

1. **Third-Party Approval:** Mandating third-party safety approvals for e-bikes, e-scooters, and their batteries before market release, from August 2025.
2. **Temporary Ban on Universal Chargers:** Imposing a temporary ban on universal chargers until compatibility and safety can be ensured.
3. **Clear Markings and Safe Disposal:** Requiring clear labelling on lithium-ion batteries and providing guidelines for safe disposal to prevent fires in waste management facilities ([International Fire & Safety Journal](#)) ([FS Matters](#)) ([metroSTOR UK](#))(Lithium Batteries).

Proposal

It is recommended that the Climate Change Committee agree to support the Safety of Electric-Powered Micromobility and Lithium Batteries Act 2023 and take proactive steps to enhance the safety and awareness of lithium-ion battery use and disposal within Ashington.

By supporting this bill, Ashington Town Council can contribute to reducing fire risks, enhancing public safety, and promoting sustainable practices in our community, working towards our priorities of 'Taking urgent action to fight the effects of Climate Change', and 'Improving the environment by providing a pleasant and safe place to live.'

1. Support the Bill

- Write a formal letter of support to the campaign led by Electrical Safety First and Lord Foster.
- Publicise our support through a press release highlighting our commitment to public safety and environmental responsibility.

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2. Local Action

- Promote awareness about the safe use and disposal of lithium-ion batteries within our community.
- Seek information that we can share from Northumberland Fire & Safety and Northumberland County Council to educate residents about the risks and proper disposal methods for lithium-ion batteries.
- Encourage local retailers to adhere to safety standards and provide proper information to consumers.

3. Engagement with Local MP

Write to Ian Lavery MP asking him to support the bill during its legislative process.

Further information

<https://www.electricalsafetyfirst.org.uk/battery-breakdown/battery-safety-campaign/>

<https://www.britsafe.org/safety-management/2024/lithium-ion-batteries-a-growing-fire-risk>

<https://www.chroniclelive.co.uk/news/north-east-news/ebike-escooter-battery-catch-fire-27968004>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c3q6k69zw1lo>