

Report for: Record of Decision Taken Under Delegated Authority

Item number:

Title: Disabled Parking Place Policy

Report authorised by: Stephen McDonnell, Director of Environment & Neighbourhoods.

Lead Officer: Ann Cunningham, Head of Operations.

Ward(s) affected: All Wards

**Report for Key/
Non-Key Decision:** Non key decision

1.1 Purpose

1. The Council agreed the introduction of Dedicated Disabled Parking Places in September 2019. It also agreed to delegate to the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods authority, in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member, to publish a revised policy to give effect to recommendations 3.1 (i) to (iii) of the report.
- 1.2 This report sets out the proposed revised Disabled Parking Places Policy, to reflect the new service offer of Dedicated Disabled Parking Places. If approved this Policy will set out the eligibility criteria that regard is to be had to when considering applications for dedicated disabled parking bays.
- 1.4 The revised policy will be implemented from January 2020, with applications for dedicated disabled parking bays invited from residents who meet the criteria.

2.1 Background

- 2.1 Parking provision, in particular the Disabled Blue Badge and Disabled Parking Places makes a considerable contribution to the independence and social inclusion of disabled residents.
- 2.2 The Council has an obligation to provide parking places for individuals with severe mobility restrictions. While revising the policy to make Dedicated Disabled Parking Bays available by application, the Council will continue to provide Disabled Parking Bays in Town Centres and near other places of interest i.e. Libraries and Medical Centres, that may be used by anyone holding a Disabled Blue Badge.

- 2.3 The revised policy is attached as appendix 1. The offer proposed by Haringey exceeds that available in the majority of London boroughs, who have yet to revise their Disabled Parking Place Policy to include people with hidden disabilities.
- 2.4 In line with recommendations in the Cabinet report, eligibility is aligned as close as possible with the Disabled Blue Badge (without further assessment) criteria.
- 2.5 However, when revising the existing criteria to give effect to the recommendation in paragraph 3.1(ii) of **Cabinet's decision regarding Blue Badge and Disabled Bay** provision on 10 September 2019, officers considered that the following additional eligibility requirements were necessary;
- Applicants in receipt of the higher rate attendance allowance will qualify automatically.
 - Applicants must score 12 points **or more under the 'moving around' activity** of the mobility component of Personal Independence Payment (PIP). This aligns with the September Cabinet decision that applicants should be able to walk no more than 20 metres.
 - As the concession applies to those with serious walking restrictions, those who are registered blind will not qualify, unless they can do so on the grounds of mobility impairment.

3. Mobility Assessments

- 3.1 Those who do not meet the criteria for the automatic award of a Dedicated Disabled Parking Bay, will be referred for assessment. Those assessments will be undertaken by Certified Expert Assessors. Those assessors already undertake mobility assessments associated with Disabled Blue Badge applications.
- 3.2 The expiry / renewal dates of both schemes are being aligned to allow one assessment, reducing the burden on applicants as well as the Community Therapists. It should be noted however that the threshold for a disabled parking bay is slightly higher than that applying to a Disabled Blue Badge. As such entitlement to a Disabled Blue Badge will not guarantee entitlement to a Dedicated Disabled bay. As the Disabled Blue Badge allows wide concessions, it is not always necessary to allocate a dedicated space 24 hours daily.

4. Alternative options considered

- 4.1 The service considered retaining the current policy position. However, the Council has a statutory obligation to provide disabled parking facilities for those with severe mobility restrictions. It is strongly felt that this provision should include dedicated **disabled parking bays installed near an applicant's home or workplace and reserved** for their sole use. Disabled parking bays will still be provided in town centres and near other places of interest that can be used by any Disabled Blue Badge holder.

5. Chief Finance Officer Comments

- 5.1 There are no specific finance implications arising from this report.

6. Traffic Management Order process

- 6.1 It will be necessary to amend the relevant Traffic Management Order to reflect a decision to approve an application for a dedicated disabled parking bay.
- 6.2 The statutory consultation process will be undertaken, and a Notice relating to the proposals will be published in the local press, providing the public with a 21-day period in which to make any objections or representations.
- 6.3 Any objections received will be considered prior to any decision being made to implement the parking bay. If no objections are received during this period, the Order can be made and a Notice to this effect can be published in the local press, bringing the Order into force. Should any objection relate to the location of the bay, alternative suitable locations will be sought

7. Legal implications

- 7.1 Regard has been had to section 122 of the RTRA. The provision of dedicated disabled parking bays will not impact on the expeditious, convenient and safe movement of vehicular and other traffic including pedestrians as the parking bays already exist or words to that effect.

1. Comments of the Assistant Director of Corporate Governance

- 8.1 The Disabled Parking Places Policy is a non-statutory document that sets out the **Council's policy for** determining applications to covert disabled parking bays into Dedicated Disabled Parking Bays. Introducing the criteria and procedures in the Policy to determine applications will ensure that the introduction of Dedicated Disabled Parking Bays in a consistent and transparent manner whilst ensuring each application is determined on its own merits.
- 8.2 Guidance prepared by the Department for Transport for local authorities on Blue Badge schemes has been considered when preparing the Disabled Parking Places Policy.
- 8.3 The Disabled Parking Places Policy is not a Policy Framework document and so the **adoption of the Policy can be authorised by the Council's Executive.**
- 8.4 On 10 September 2019 Cabinet approved the introduction of Dedicated Disabled Parking Bays and delegated to the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods authority to make the necessary operational and policy changes to introduce Dedicated Disabled Parking Bays and so the Director is authorised to approve the revised Disabled Parking Places Policy.

2. Equality

- 9.1 The Council has a statutory duty to provide disabled parking bays to residents with severe mobility restrictions. The policy is now being revised to provide dedicated bays, which reserves a space close to **an applicant's** home or workplace. Disabled parking bays that may be used by any Disabled Badge Holder will still be installed in Town Centres and at other places of interest.

10. Recommendations

- 10.1 That the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods agree the revised Disabled Parking Place Policy attached as Appendix 1.

Signed:



Name: Stephen McDonnell

Date: 15 January 2020