

Single Member Cabinet Decision

Executive
Forward Plan
Reference**E2585****Blue Badge Appeals Process**

Decision maker/s	Cllr Roberts, Cabinet Member for Transport
The Issue	<p>On the 1st January 2012 changes occurred within the administration of the Disabled Drivers Blue Badge scheme with all badges issued nationally by one company called Northgate, who have been instructed by the Department for Transport to carry out this work. All local authorities who issue Blue Badges have signed up to the scheme and badges are issued in accordance with The Blue Badge Scheme Local Authority Guidance (England). The Blue Badge Scheme Local Authority Guidance (England) in essence is only for guidance and not a statutory document however it does contain processes which it recommends local authorities to follow.</p> <p>A recommendation of the guidance is that an appeals process is in place for any applicant that has been refused a blue badge to ensure that applicants feel their concerns have been considered fully.</p>
Decision Date	2nd September 2013
The decision	The Cabinet Member agrees that the published Appeal Procedure for disabled Persons Parking Permits is adopted and all future appeals are dealt with according to the processes contained within.
Rationale for decision	To ensure equality within the decision making processes it is best practice to have an appeals process. This reassures all applicants that their application will be judged fully and fairly in line with a published policy if rejected at initial assessment.
Financial and budget implications	The costs for providing the appeals service will be absorbed within the Service Budget for Blue Badges.
Issues considered	Social Inclusion; Customer Focus; Human Rights; Other Legal Considerations
Consultation undertaken	Full consultation was undertaken by the Department for Transport in regard to the changes proposed. All key stakeholders were included within the consultation process.
How consultation was carried out	Consultation was carried out via a number of channels including online, direct mail, publication of proposals to interested parties and media involvement.
Other options considered	<p>To not have a formal appeals process - This has been considered and dismissed. Often applicants can find forms confusing and as such provide insufficient or incorrect information which could lead to their application being refused. Allowing the applicant to appeal gives an opportunity to provide more information that they consider relevant.</p> <p>To not formalise the Appeals Process – This could reduce confidence in the team and the processes and leave the Council open to</p>

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Signatures of Decision Makers	
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Date of Signature	
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Subject to Call-in until 5 Working days have elapsed following publication of the decision
