

Policy Name	Blue badge parking scheme for disabled drivers and passengers policy
Version No.	V2
Approval Date	
Category	Operational
Classification	Internal

Blue badge parking scheme for disabled drivers and passenger’s policy

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Review Frequency	Every 3 years
Latest Review Date	06/11/2023
Approved By & Date	06/11/2023
Next Review Date	06/11/2026

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Version Control

Version	Date	Description	Updated By	Approved By
1	04/11/2022	First Draft	Katie Stallard	
2	19/12/2022	Final Draft	Katie Stallard	Geoff Hedges
3	06/02/2023	Final Draft	Catherine Hitchman	Catherine Hitchman

1. Policy Purpose and Aim (A brief introduction, what is the direction of the policy, what does it aim to achieve and why is it needed e.g legal, financial, operational etc)

This policy explains how the Worcestershire County Council's Blue Badge Team administers the Blue Badge scheme in Worcestershire.

Blue Badge scheme requirements are set by central Government and in Worcestershire are administered by the County Council and enforced by the District Councils. The aim of the scheme is to help people with severe mobility problems caused by visible and/or non-visible (hidden) disabilities to access goods and services, by allowing them to park close to their destination.

The scheme provides a national range of on-street parking concessions to Blue Badge holders. It allows them to park without charge or time limit in otherwise restricted areas, to help people with disabilities to access goods and services more easily without permission.

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on-street parking environments and allows them to park on yellow lines for up to three hours, unless a loading ban is in place.

2. Objectives (This section should set out the specific objectives of the policy in bullet form)

- As a local authority, Worcestershire County Council is responsible for the day-to-day administration of the scheme. Worcestershire County Council is responsible for determining and implementing administrative and assessment procedures which are in accordance with the governing legislation. It is important that there is effective communication between the teams that issue Blue Badges and those that conduct on-street enforcement.
- It is the responsibility of Worcestershire County Council to ensure that badges are only issued to residents who satisfy one or more of the eligibility criteria set out in the legislation that governs the scheme. Under no circumstances, should anyone who does not satisfy at least one of the criteria receive a badge.

All members of staff who deal regularly with applicants and badge holders should receive Disability and Equality Awareness training. Such training will help staff to understand the importance of the scheme to those who may rely upon it to access goods and services.

3. Scope of Policy (Who/what does the policy impact/apply to)

This policy applies to all members of Worcestershire County Council's Blue Badge team. It

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is designed to put in place administration and assessment practices that are:

- Fair and consistent in their treatment of Blue Badge applicants
- Customer-friendly and clear
- Timely and Cost-efficient
- Resistant to abuse

To be eligible for a Blue Badge, applicants must be able to satisfy residency and identity checks and be able to demonstrate that they meet one of the two types of eligibility criteria e.g that are ‘eligible without further assessment’ criteria or ‘eligible subject to further assessment’ criteria. Please see guidance for eligibility criteria or visit Worcestershire County Council’s Website.

4. Responsibilities (Draft a table to set out the responsibilities for roles responsible for overseeing the policy e.g., employees being aware for implications in practice, Managers ensuring staff have read and understood policy etc.)

Board	<i>All decisions in relation to the Blue Badge Scheme and its Policy is managed through PDLT (People Directorate Leadership Team)</i>
Senior Leadership Team	<i>Any changes required to the policy or changes in process will be agreed through the IT and Digital Board.</i>
Residents of Worcestershire entitled to a Blue Badge	<i>A Blue Badge holder is responsible for ensuring the concession is for their use only and is not to be misused or given to friends or family</i>

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Local Authority	<i>Worcestershire County Council is responsible for the day-to-day administration of the scheme. For implementing, assessments to determine need in accordance with the governing legislation. It is the responsibility of Worcestershire County Council to ensure that blue badges are only issued to residents who satisfy one or more of the eligibility criteria set out in the legislation that governs the scheme.</i>
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5. Monitoring and Review (High level, where does this policy get scrutinized, will the policy be updated and reviewed in response to incidents, changing legal/regulatory environment)

The Blue Badge team will maintain records of all applications, re-applications, and eligibility decisions. Details of badge holders will be maintained on a national database. Badges may be inspected by Police, parking enforcement officers and other authorised personnel.

The policy will be reviewed in line with any changes in relevant local policy decision or national government changes in Blue Badge legislation. The policy reflects the Council's current position and will be reviewed every 3 years.

6. Risk Management (planned and systematic approach to identifying risks and how the

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policy will help to manage risks)

The misuse of Blue Badges undermines the benefits of the scheme, impacts upon local traffic management, and creates hostility amongst other badge holders and members of the public.

Abuse can occur at all points in the system, whether at the point of the initial application, through requests for replacements, to on-street usage. For this reason, it is vital that both issuing teams and parking enforcement teams are alert to criminal or fraudulent behaviour and attempt to prevent fraud and abuse before it happens.

Worcestershire County Council will consider ways of preventing abuse and misuse of the blue badge scheme at the outset. Ensuring that only eligible people get badges and that expert assessors are used where eligibility is unclear.

Worcestershire County Council will ensure all successful applicants are properly informed of, -and understand, what they can and cannot do with a badge (and when/how it should be returned to the authority). This is likely to reduce the chances of accidental misuse occurring and avoid disputes.

This policy will review Strategic risk with regards to any changes to the Blue Badge (Disabled Persons' Parking) Scheme 1971 under Section 21 of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970 ('the 1970 Act')

This policy will review compliance and regulatory risk around introducing any new rules or legislation with regards to Blue Badges

7. Statement of Commitment (A brief paragraph – What is our intent with the policy between Authority, residents and communities)

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Worcestershire County Council is committed to administering a Blue Badge scheme that meets the requirements set by central Government. Staff involved in administering Blue Badges will receive Disability and Equality Awareness training to meet our commitment to emphasising the importance of the scheme to those who may rely upon it to access goods and services.

8. Other Relevant Policies & Documents (Does this policy relate/Link to any other policies)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blue Badge Guidance
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •

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9. Relevant Legislative & Regulatory Requirements

Legislation	Regulation	Guidance
The Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970	The Disabled Persons (Badges for Motor Vehicles) (England) Regulations 2000	Department for Transport Blue Badge Scheme Local Authority Guidance (Updated 16 May 2022)
The Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 Equality Act 2010	The Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Exemptions for Disabled persons) (England) Regulations 2000	
Disabled Persons' Parking Badges Act 2013	The Disabled Persons (Badges for Motor Vehicles) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2019	

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