

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

6 SEPTEMBER 2016

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR - OPERATIONAL AND PARTNERSHIP SERVICES

BLUE BADGE SCHEME AND AMENDMENT TO THE SCHEME OF DELEGATION OF FUNCTIONS

1. Purpose of Report.

- 1.1 To seek Cabinet approval to amend the Scheme of Delegation of Functions in relation to the Blue Badge Scheme.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Objectives/Other Corporate Priorities

- 2.1 The Scheme of Delegation of Functions provides the authority for Cabinet Members and Officers to undertake their respective duties. The Scheme therefore directly affects the ability of the Authority to process the Corporate Improvement Plan and all Corporate Priorities.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Blue Badge (Disabled Persons' Parking) scheme was introduced in 1971 under section 21 of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970. The scheme provides a national arrangement throughout the UK of on-street parking concessions for people who experience the greatest barriers to their mobility when seeking to access community based facilities. The scheme is open to eligible people who may be travelling as a driver or a passenger.
- 3.2 The Welsh Government is responsible for the policy and legislative framework for the scheme in Wales.
- 3.3 Local authorities are responsible for the day to day administration and enforcement of the scheme provided under the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970. They are responsible for receiving applications, determining such applications and where relevant issuing badges, administering appeals and dealing with enforcement procedures and potential referrals to legal Services where appropriate.
- 3.4 Until the end of September 2012 the responsibility for administering the scheme on behalf of the Council was with the Wellbeing Directorate. The responsibility was transferred to Customer Services on 1st October 2012. During the recent restructure of the Corporate Management Board, Customer Services has moved in to the Operational and Partnership Directorate. The scheme of delegations is required to be updated to reflect the current position.

4. Current situation / proposal

- 4.1 It is proposed that the following insertion is made to the Scheme of Delegation of Functions at Scheme B2 as a function allocated to the Corporate Director – Operational and Partnership Services:

3.66	To assess an individual's eligibility for a badge defined in sections 21-21C of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970 and where appropriate to issue the badge or process an appeals procedure.
------	--

3.67	To do anything which the Council has a power or duty to do that is necessary for the enforcement of Section 117 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and to recommend to the Corporate Director Operational and Partnership Services the institution of criminal proceedings arising from any breach of those provisions.
------	--

- 4.2 It is further proposed that the 'Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984' be inserted into the list of enactments at Scheme B2 paragraph 3.54 as a function allocated to the Corporate Director – Operational and Partnership Services.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework & Procedure Rules.

- 5.1 The Scheme of Delegation of Functions will require amendment.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

- 6.1 A screening for equality impact has been undertaken and the Blue Badge Scheme will not have any negative impact on how the Authority complies with its duties relating to equalities.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1 None.

8. Recommendation.

- 8.1 It is recommended that Cabinet note the report and approve the amendment to the Scheme of Delegation of Functions at paragraphs 4.1 and 4.2.

P A Jolley
Corporate Director – Operational and Partnership Services

Contact Officer: Bev Davies
Customer Service Manager

Telephone: (01656) 643333

E-mail: bev.davies@bridgend.gov.uk

Postal Address Customer Service Centre
Civic Offices
Angel Street
Bridgend CF31 4WB

Background documents
None