

**COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

Directorate / Service Area		Officer undertaking the assessment
Customer Service and Transformation		Name: Dan Thorp .....
Service / Document / Function being assessed		Job Title: Strategy & Policy Manager .....
The Blue Badge Parking Service		Contact details: 01223 699953 .....
Date completed: 5 January 2016 .....		Date approved: .....
<b>Business Plan Proposal Number (if relevant)</b>	C/R 7.160	
Aims and Objectives of Service / Document / Function		

A Blue Badge is a parking permit that allows people who are registered severely sight impaired, or those with severe mobility issues easier access to public facilities by allowing them to park closer to where they need to go and gives access to reduced price car parking in some locations.

In order to qualify for a badge applicants must be permanently and substantially disabled and provide evidence of this. This application process is for both first time applications and customers who have an existing Blue Badge. There is currently a £9 charge when applying for a new Blue Badge and a £5 charge for replacement badges that have been lost, stolen or damaged. Where applications are unsuccessful, the charge is fully refunded. All applicants are required to provide supporting documentation dependent on their qualifying criteria.

The scheme contains a number of application criteria by which the applicant is automatically eligible for a badge and a number of discretionary criteria, which are listed below. A blue badge is usually issued for a period of three years, although some badges are issued for shorter periods in accordance with the duration of a state benefit, such as Disability Living Allowance.

#### Automatic Criteria:

- In receipt of the Higher Rate Mobility Component of [Disability Living Allowance](#)
- are [severely sight impaired \(registered blind\)](#)
- In receipt of the [War Pensioner's Mobility Supplement](#)
- In receipt of a lump sum benefit from the [Armed Forces and Reserve Forces Compensation Scheme](#) (within tariff levels 1-8). You must also have been certified as having a permanent and substantial disability which causes inability to walk or very considerable difficulty in walking.
- In receipt of 8 points or more under the 'moving around' descriptor for the mobility component of the [Personal Independence Payment \(PIP\)](#).

#### Discretionary criteria

- Have a permanent and substantial disability which means you cannot walk or which makes walking very difficult.
- Drive a motor vehicle regularly, have a severe disability in both arms, and are unable to operate all or some types of parking meter (or would find it very difficult to operate them)
- Children under the age of 3 who have specific medical conditions which require them to be accompanied by bulky medical equipment or who need to be kept near a vehicle at all times, so that they can, if necessary, be treated in the vehicle, or quickly driven to a place where they can be treated, such as a hospital

The scheme does not currently cater for temporary disability or conditions, or individuals with mental health difficulties.

### What is changing?

The proposal is to increase the charge for a new or renewed Blue Badge from £9 to £10 and for a replacement badge, from £5 to £10. This is in line with the maximum charge permitted as stated within Section 2, paragraph 4 of The Disabled Persons (Badges for Motor Vehicles) (England) Regulations 2011.

This proposal will bring our charges in line with all neighboring authorities with the exception of Peterborough, who continue to charge £5 for a replacement badge.

No changes are being proposed in relation to full refunds where the application has been unsuccessful.

### Who is involved in this impact assessment?

e.g. Council officers, partners, service users and community representatives.

Council officers within the Customer Service and Transformation Directorate.

This Impact Assessment also draws on information from the Department of Transport's national 2010

consultation on the Blue Badge scheme.

A public consultation was held from 24 November 2015 to 5 January 2016. The consultation was targeted specifically at Blue Badge holders, but was also open to the public. (This was the first occasion that the Council has utilised new software for carrying out such consultations which has enabled us to target our consultation more effectively to those who are likely to be impacted by the proposed change.)

- 95% of respondents and all seven of the respondent organisations “agreed” or “strongly agreed” with the proposal to increase the charge for applying for a Blue Badge from £9 to £10.
- 87.5% of respondents and all seven of the respondent organisations “agreed” or “strongly agreed” with the proposal to increase the charge for replacement Blue Badges from £5 to £10.

### What will the impact be?

Tick to indicate if the expected impact on each of the following protected characteristics is positive, neutral or negative.

Impact	Positive	Neutral	Negative
Age		x	
Disability		x	
Gender reassignment		x	
Marriage and civil partnership		x	
Pregnancy and maternity		x	
Race		x	

Impact	Positive	Neutral	Negative
Religion or belief		x	
Sex		x	
Sexual orientation		x	
The following additional characteristics can be significant in areas of Cambridgeshire.			
Rural isolation		x	
Deprivation		x	

For each of the above characteristics where there is an expected positive, negative and / or neutral impact, please provide details, including evidence for this view. Consider whether the impact could be disproportionate on any particular protected characteristic. Describe the actions that will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts and how the actions are to be recorded and monitored. Describe any issues that may need to be addressed or opportunities that may arise.

#### Positive Impact

The changes are not expected to have any positive impact on the protected characteristics.

#### Negative Impact

Given the response to the targeted and public consultation carried out, it is anticipated that there will be no significant negative impacts to protected characteristics.

#### Neutral Impact

Given the overwhelming results of the consultation, which was targeted at those most closely impacted by the proposal, it is anticipated that this change would largely have a neutral impact across all protected characteristics outlined in this form.

Despite the clarity of feedback from the consultation, showing overwhelming support for implementing the proposed change, the Council will endeavor to monitor the impact of the proposal – if implemented – and maintain an understanding of any individual instances of negative impact.

#### Issues or Opportunities that may need to be addressed

### Community Cohesion

If it is relevant to your area you should also consider the impact on community cohesion.

Not applicable

### Version Control

Version no.	Date	Updates / amendments	Author(s)
1	03.11.2015		Jo Tompkins
2	05.01.2016	Updated to reflect the results of the public consultation	Dan Thorp