

Notice of Motion

Motion to be moved by Councillor A. Thompson:

Council notes that Hull City Council's Blue Badge scheme offers vital support for disabled people with mobility challenges or hidden disabilities. It improves accessibility by allowing easier parking near essential destinations, reduces physical strain, and enhances independence by enabling spontaneous travel and daily participation. Additionally, it contributes to better mental health by reducing anxiety and promoting social connection [1,2].

Council also notes that disabled people in Hull do encounter several major barriers when applying for a Blue Badge. These include digital exclusion for those lacking internet access or digital skills, inconsistent requests and complex evidence requirements, and the stressful need for frequent reapplication even for lifelong conditions. Hidden disabilities are often overlooked, requiring applicants to repeatedly justify their need, while a lack of renewal reminders can result in lost support. Limited assistance with applications and inconsistent mobility assessments further contribute to the challenges faced, affecting access, dignity, and independence for many [3,4,5,6,7].

Council acknowledges that its processes, eligibility and evidence criteria align with other authorities and national guidance, however council believes that more can be done to apply local discretion and innovation in evidence handling. The council accepts that councils have flexibility under DfT guidance to shape their own processes and has a responsibility under the Equality Act 2010, to reduce barriers for Hulls disabled residents. [8,9,10,11,12].

Council resolves to request that the Executive commission a review into the way in which this Council administers the Blue Badge Scheme for the residents of Hull. This should include considering:

- What evidence the Council requires to support any application for a blue badge noting that the provision of some forms of evidence may have a financial implication on disabled people (For example GP letter).
- Whether to introduce DWP Verification, to allow applicants to consent to benefit verification directly with DWP to reduce paperwork and improve accessibility.
- Whether it is feasible for the Council to expand accepted evidence types to include care plans, EHCPs, and summary care records to better reflect lived experience and holistic needs.
- Whether the Council should stop requesting disabled people to provide evidence, which is already held in the authority. Once the authority is made aware of the evidence, we should request that evidence from the relevant department.
- Enhancing Online Support, by offering live chat or guided upload tools to assist applicants with digital barriers.
- Streamlining the application process, especially for repeat applicants with long-term conditions

- Delivering engagement sessions with disability organisations to co-design further improvements

This review should take into account all relevant budgetary and resourcing implications for the Council.

Council further resolves to request that the Chief Executive write to the Rt. Hon. Liz Kendall MP, the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pointing out the potential contradiction in legislation and asking for a review of the relevant legislation and associated Regulations to provide greater clarity for administering authorities and applicants alike.

Sources:

- [1] thebluebadgeblog.com
- [2] www.psychreg.org
- [3] www.citizensadvice.lancashirewest.org.uk
- [4] medwayadvice.org.uk
- [5] www.disabilityrightsuk.org
- [6] uk.news.yahoo.com
- [7] www.local.gov.uk
- [8] www.hull.gov.uk
- [9] www.gov.uk
- [10] www.localbusinessnews.co.uk
- [11] bcciconsulting.com
- [12] www.camden.gov.uk