

# DISABLED DRIVERS PARKING SPACE POLICY

Parking, Marine and Highways Policy Service



## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. Plymouth City Council provides a service for the provision of disabled parking spaces to support persons with severe mobility impairment to access their residential home. This policy sets out the eligibility criteria for a Disabled Drivers Parking Space.
- 1.2. The provision of these bays is not a mandatory or a statutory service, but is a courtesy service which Plymouth City Council provides to persons with severe mobility impairments to improve the quality of life.
- 1.3. This service is aligned to the Councils values of a Fair and Responsible Council and the Councils vision of a Caring Council.

## 2. ELIGIBILITY

- 2.1. The following criteria must apply for any applicant to be considered for a Disabled Driver Parking Space:
  - Have a valid Blue Badge;
  - Be the driver of the vehicle;
  - There are no alternative off-street parking facilities - don't have a garage, driveway or hard-standing;
  - Experiences frequent difficulty in parking close to their home, defined as an inability to walk 20M or less (in line with the enhanced rate for Personal Independence Payment (PIP) Mobility Component formerly Disability Living Allowance Higher Rate Mobility Component).
- 2.2. If any of the above criteria does not apply an application will be declined.
- 2.3. A Disabled Driver Parking Space is linked to the applicants blue badge. A Disabled Driver Parking Space is only valid up and to the expiry of the blue badge. Upon expiry of a blue badge the applicant must re-apply to keep the bay for a further 3 years (in accordance with the validity of the blue badge).
- 2.4. Each application is considered fairly and consistently.

## 3. LOCATION

- 3.1. In addition to the eligibility criteria Plymouth City Council may not be able to provide a Disabled Driver Parking Space if:
  - There are no parking problems in the street (a survey may be carried out);
  - There are parking restrictions near the applicant's home (single or double yellow lines);
  - The applicant lives near a junction (within 10 metres);
  - The proposed bay is close to, or within, the turning head of a cul-de-sac;
  - The width of street is less than 3.6 metres;
  - Safety of a road user (bay required on brow of hill) - see Highway Code;

- Any other related road safety concern arising from the potential placement of a Disabled Driver Parking Space

#### **4. COST**

- 4.1. There is an administration fee of £40 for all applications. Application fees are non-refundable, even if an application is declined, and applies to all future applications from the same applicant.
- 4.2. There is no fee associated with the placement of the bay on the Highway. The Council will meet the costs associated with the placement of a courtesy bay on the Highway and the future maintenance of that bay providing the named driver remains entitled to the bay.

#### **5. SIZINGS**

- 5.1. The disabled drivers parking bay will be laid in accordance with the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2002.
- 5.2. There is no guarantee that the Disabled Driver Parking Space be located directly outside the applicant's property. The exact location will be determined on site and will be examined within highway engineer criteria and the local conditions.

#### **6. ENFORCEMENT**

- 6.1. Disabled Driver Parking Spaces are advisory and not covered by a Traffic Regulation Order; therefore Disabled Driver Parking Spaces cannot be enforced by Plymouth City Council or the Police.
- 6.2. Whilst a Disabled Driver Parking Spaces is intended for the use of the applicant, they are not legally reserved for the exclusive use of an individual.

#### **7. TERMS OF USE**

- 7.1. Disabled Driver Parking Spaces remain the property of Plymouth City Council.
- 7.2. The provision of the Disabled Driver Parking Space will be reviewed in line with the expiry date of the blue badge. Should an applicant be declined a blue badge in future, the bay would be removed.
- 7.3. Applicants must immediately notify Plymouth City Council if they no longer meet the required criteria.

#### **8. APPEAL**

- 8.1. Should an application be unsuccessful, Plymouth City Council will write to the applicant providing details of the reasons for refusal. An applicant may appeal under the following circumstances: -
  - They believe an application has been assessed incorrectly and setting out why (in accordance with the eligibility criteria);
  - Their circumstances have changed since the application and wish for the application to be re-considered submitting details of the change in circumstances.
- 8.2. Appeals will not be considered because the applicant is unhappy with the outcome.

8.3. Appeals will be considered by a Service Manager.

8.4. An appeal decision is final.

8.5. Plymouth City Council may use discretion when assessing individual applications and under exceptional circumstances, such as terminal illness, in the case where someone may not meet the defined criteria. In such cases applications will be considered in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport.