

**PROPOSED EXTENSION OF CONCESSIONS FOR DISABLED VIRTUAL RESIDENTIAL PARKING  
PERMIT**

**The Haringey (Free Parking Places, Loading Places and Waiting, Loading and Stopping Restrictions)  
(Amendment No.\*\*\*) Order 202\***

**The Haringey (Charged for Parking Places) (Amendment No. \*) Order 202\***

**T51**

**Statement of Reasons**

The Department for Transport (DfT) is responsible for the legislation that sets out the framework for the Blue Badge scheme, including associated guidance and for sharing good practice.

It is the role of local authorities to manage the day-to-day administration policies and procedures, and to support the assessment, local provisions, and enforcement services to ensure customers are:

- Treated fairly and consistently
- Provided with a timely and cost-effective service, and
- That all administration processes are robust and resistant to abuse.

Fraudulent Blue Badge parking can be categorised into two groups:

1. Abuse of badges. This includes using a counterfeit badge, using a lost or stolen badge and using the badge of a deceased person.
2. Misuse of genuine badges. This means using the badge when the holder is not present. Some people who fall into this category think (wrongly) that what they are doing is not fraudulent. A few will have failed to understand the restrictions on use, but most will chance their luck on the basis that it can be hard to prove. Either way, this is still a criminal offence; it can lead to prosecution and a criminal conviction.

Haringey introduced a scheme many years to help reduce Blue Badge theft. The original scheme, known as the Companion Badge, incorporated the vehicle registration number so that it could not be used on any other vehicle and was therefore of no value to anyone other than the legitimate holder. It did not replace the Blue Badge but could be used 24 hours a day in Haringey. Take-up of the scheme was relatively low, with 15% of Blue Badge holders choosing to purchase a Companion Badge.

This scheme was recently replaced with a disabled virtual residential parking permit, for the badge holders' home Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ). This mirrored arrangements in two neighbouring boroughs (Islington and Hackney). Being free of charge, this was expected to appeal to a wider cohort of badge holders. This would, in turn, reduce the numbers of Blue Badges being displayed, and therefore at risk of being stolen. This scheme requires the vehicle to be registered in the Blue Badge holder's name at the address within the CPZ. Those residents could already purchase a residential parking permit. The new scheme therefore did not, by default, increase any opportunity for misuse of the scheme.

However, on implementation of the new scheme, existing Companion Badge holders report that they find the new scheme too restrictive. They feel that the benefits being limited to their home CPZ fails to provide the protections required. Consideration has therefore been given to extending the concessions borough-wide, but with some checks and balances introduced to manage risk. This would reduce incidences of misuse where the virtual permit is being used to avail of free parking when the blue badge holder is not present. In addition, a paper will be taken to Cabinet later to this for decision on adopting a formal policy on the enforcement of the fraudulent use of Disabled Blue Badges.

It is therefore proposed that statutory consultation is undertaken as follows:

1. Extend eligibility for the disabled virtual residential parking permit to allow the vehicle to be registered to anyone in the same household.
2. The disabled virtual residential parking permit be extended borough-wide, allowing holders to park in non-dedicated disabled parking bays, residential permit parking bays, permit holders parking place, pay by phone bays, shared use residential permit parking place/pay by phone bays and shared use permit holder parking place/pay by phone bays.
3. Those permit holders would be prohibited from parking on single or double yellow lines (However Disabled Badge holders may park for up to 3 hours on single or double yellow lines where loading restrictions do not apply, providing the badge and associated clock is displayed correctly).
4. When using the disabled virtual residential parking permit, the Blue Badge must be available for inspection when requested by an Enforcement Officer.
5. When using the disabled virtual residential parking permit, the blue badge holder must be present either as the driver or passenger of the vehicle and therefore personally making use of the concession, , unless parked outside the home of the blue badge holder.
6. The disabled virtual residential parking permit would remain free of charge.