

<b>Committee(s):</b> Enforcement, Environment and Housing	<b>Date:</b> 7 March 2022
<b>Subject:</b> Mobility Scooter Policy	<b>Wards Affected:</b> All
<b>Report of:</b> Tracey Lilley - Corporate Director (Housing and Community Safety)	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report Author/s:</b> Name: Nicola Marsh, Corporate Manager – Housing Estates Telephone: 01277 312500 E-mail: nicola.marsh@brentwood.gov.uk	<b>For Decision</b>

### **Summary**

The proposed Mobility Scooter policy is presented for approval by members. This is a new policy to provide clarity on the Council's approach to the use of mobility scooters in Housing Revenue Account (HRA) properties and communal areas, as well as any temporary or emergency housing provided by the Council.

Once approved the Council will work with residents to implement the policy in a pragmatic way, based on the resources available and the demand to store mobility scooters where the Council provides accommodation.

### **Recommendation(s)**

**Members are asked to:**

**R1. To approve the Mobility Scooter policy.**

### **Main Report**

#### **Introduction and Background**

1. The Council has an increasing number of residents in HRA properties where there is a need to store and charge mobility scooters. Managing this demand and the practical implications of the storage for the block has both cost and safety implications for the Council to consider.
2. The policy has been developed to help address this and provide a starting point for engaging residents on this. Every site will have a different need and different facilities available. The policy provides a framework for the discussions and decisions to take place.

3. The cost implications of providing additional mobility scooter charging points and storage will need to be assessed on a site by site basis, based on the current demand and likely future demand.
4. There are also issues arising from the storage of mobility scooters in communal areas, both on access to and from the building (e.g. escape routes) and a need to ensure that the scooters are in a safe condition (e.g. a current portable appliance test, known as a PAT test).

### **Reasons for Recommendation**

5. To ensure that the Housing Department has documentation to support the implementation of managing requests for mobility scooter storage and how to manage their presence on sites.

### **Consultation**

6. Consultations has taken place with the Tenant Talkback on the content of the policy. There were no specific changes made to the policy and feedback related to how the policy would be implemented locally at the site.

### **References to Corporate Plan**

7. Drive continuous improvement of our housing services and continue a service improvement programme to ensure our services are delivered efficiently.

### **Implications**

#### **Financial Implications**

**Name/Title: Phoebe Barnes, Corporate Manager – Finance (Deputy S151)**

**Tel/Email: 01277 312829/phoebe.barnes@brentwood.gov.uk**

8. There are no financial implications directly arising from this report. The implementation of the policy will need to be managed within the financial budgets set and consideration given to the future demand that may arise, and any resulting financial impact.
9. Costs that could be incurred by this policy are storage, security and insurance costs. Officers will need to understand any liability regarding scooter damage or theft.

#### **Legal Implications**

**Name & Title: Amanda Julian, Corporate Director (Law & Governance) & Monitoring Officer**

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10. There are no legal implications that will arise from the report that is implemented, the issue will for the Council will be if the policy is not implemented consistently and if the approach does not enable residents to store their mobility scooters on site. The implementation of the policy will need to be aware of the equality implications of demand being greater than the availability of mobility scooter storage spaces.

### **Economic Implications**

**Name/Title: Phil Drane, Corporate Director (Planning & Economy)**

**Tel/Email: 01277 312610/philip.drane@brentwood.gov.uk**

11. There are no direct economic implications arising from the adoption of this policy. Enabling residents access to mobility scooters will help people to remain as independent for as long as possible and active in the local community.

### **Background Papers**

There are no background papers to this report.

### **Appendices to this report**

Appendix A: The Mobility Scooter Policy