

Brentwood Borough Council

Mobility Scooter Policy

Draft June 2021

Aim of the Policy

To promote the use and safe storage of mobility scooters and provide a clear statement on the management of mobility scooter storage and use within the Council's housing stock.

Scope

This policy relates to the Council's tenants, leaseholders, shared owners, including household members and their visitors.

This policy sets out how the Council will approach the storage and use of mobility scooters within its housing services.

A mobility scooter is an electrically powered scooter designed for people with restricted mobility, typically those who are elderly or disabled. The DVLA has developed guidance on mobility scooter and wheelchair classifications, as follows;

- Class 1 – Manual wheelchairs, i.e. self-propelled or attendant propelled, not electronically propelled. These are not required to be registered with the DVLA. These are not covered by this policy.
- Class 2 – Powered wheelchairs and scooters – intended for footway use only with a maximum speed of 4mph and an unloaded weight not exceeding 113.4kgs. These are not required to be registered with the DVLA.
- Class 3 – Powered wheelchairs and scooters with a maximum speed of 8mph generally intended for use on roads and highways. The unloaded weight must not exceed 150kgs. These are required to be registered with the DVLA.

Permission to store a mobility scooter in a communal area

Residents are required to obtain permission from the Council to store a mobility scooter in a communal area before acquiring, or a member of their household acquires, a mobility scooter.

Where a prospective tenant(s), or member of the household, already owns a mobility scooter, they will need to obtain permission from the Council before storing the mobility scooter in a communal area.

Where there is a mobility scooter store in a sheltered housing scheme with spaces available, the mobility scooter must be stored there once permission has been granted. Where there is no mobility scooter store provision or spaces available, tenants are encouraged to transfer to a scheme where there is a mobility scooter store.

Where there is no mobility scooter store provision or spaces available, and a transfer is not feasible, tenants should make an application to store a mobility scooter(s) inside their property.

Permission may be refused where:

- No communal mobility scooter storage is provided.
- A major physical alteration to the property is required which the Council deems to be unreasonable in terms of cost and/or disruption to other tenants and/or leaseholders.
- The mobility scooter cannot fit through internal and/or external entrances.

- There are stairs and no lift facility.
- The mobility scooter blocks any fire escape route.

The Council will only permit the use of one mobility scooter per person.

Permission may be removed if the resident causes a nuisance from the use of their mobility scooter.

Allocation of spaces

Blue Badge holding tenants will be given priority for spaces when they become available and then considered in date order of request.

Spaces will be individually allocated on a 'first come, first served' basis to all other applicants.

When there are no spaces available, a waiting list will be maintained. When a space becomes available, the resident at the top of the waiting list will be contacted to process the application for permission.

Mobility Scooter Storage

The Council has no obligation to provide a storage area for mobility scooters, but will aim to provide adequate storage for class 1 and class 2 scooters where possible.

The Council will only allow a class 1 or class 2 mobility scooter or wheelchair to be stored within designated storage areas. Class 3 scooters should be stored off site.

Only 1 scooter per person can be stored in the designated areas. The resident must obtain permission from the Council before storing their mobility scooter in the storage area.

Where a mobility scooter is stored outside of a designated storage area without permission, the Council reserves the right to ask for the mobility scooter to be moved.

Where a resident wishes to store their mobility scooter within their home and this requires a change to access the property, a request for an adaptation should be made. The resident's requirements will be assessed and an adaptation may be provided.

A resident is not permitted to carry out any works to their home without permission from the Council.

The Council takes no responsibility for any damage or loss to the mobility scooter left in the storage areas.

Health and Safety

Mobility scooters stored in communal areas will need to have an annual PAT test carried out to ensure they do not pose a fire or health and safety risk. The Council will PAT test all mobility scooters that are stored in the allocated areas and the PAT test will be completed when the annual building tests are carried out.

Resident responsibilities

Currently there is no legal requirement to have insurance for class 1 and 2 mobility scooters or motorised wheelchairs. However, mobility scooter owners should be aware that they may be liable to pay compensation or third party claims, if the mobility scooter causes an accident or personal injury to a third party or causes damage to the Council's property or buildings.

Mobility scooter owners should ensure any manufacturer guidelines or instructions on the safe use of the mobility scooter are followed.

Mobility scooters must be set at their lowest speed whilst being used in communal areas to avoid injury to themselves, other tenants, leaseholders, Council staff, visitors and contractors.

It is the resident's responsibility to store the mobility scooter safely within the allocated storage areas.

All scooters stored in the Council's communal areas need to be in a safe and good working order to minimise any fire risks.

Mobility scooters must not be left unused or abandoned within the designated storage areas. Any mobility scooters believed to be unused or abandoned, will be expected to be removed from the building. Unclaimed mobility scooters may be removed by the Council and if the Council has to remove a mobility scooter, the customer may be recharged for this.

Review

This policy will be reviewed every 3 years or in response to changes in legislation, regulatory guidance or good practice.