

Mobility Scooter Policy

Date of last review: June 2020

Date of next review: June 2022

Version: 2.0

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Sign off DMT: XXX

1.0 Aims of Policy

This policy sets out our approach to the use, storage and charging of mobility scooters in Lambeth properties. We aim to support residents who wish to use mobility scooters provided this is reasonably practical and does not impact the fire safety of others.

2.0 Who is this policy for?

Housing Officers involved in tenancy management and members of the public.

3.0 Policy Statements

General Approach

- 3.1. Mobility scooters can improve the quality of life for residents who need assistance with their mobility. The Council recognises our duty under the Equality Act 2010 and will facilitate the use of mobility scooters where possible. Lambeth wants to promote independent living so that people can live in their homes for as long as possible. However, we have to balance these needs against newer fire safety regulations which must take precedence.
- 3.2. We expect residents to talk to us about the safe parking, storage and charging arrangements before obtaining a mobility scooter.
- 3.3. Where we have housing aimed specifically at disabled or older people, we will make an extra effort to support the use of mobility scooters.
- 3.4. We will consider the conversion of appropriate areas to meet demand for scooter storage. For example, there may be options to convert pram sheds, bin areas or redundant drying areas. Any such works will be subject to funding being available and health, safety and maintenance considerations. All of these options must have a suitable and accessible electricity supply, be appropriately ventilated, have suitable floor coverings and incorporate the necessary fire detection equipment.
- 3.5. As we have a wide range of homes, there is no one size fits all approach to the storage of mobility scooters. The council will take a case by case approach when advising residents of their options. Depending on the size and type of property, this could include the storage and charging of a scooter inside the home. This option removes the fire hazard from the communal areas but can present other risks which will be discussed with the resident.
- 3.6. Health and safety requirements and financial considerations may often limit what we are able to allow or provide for storage and / or battery charging.
- 3.7. We will expect residents to ensure their mobility scooter is serviced annually, with an annual Portable Appliance Test (PAT) and that they provide records of this if necessary. If not maintained in good condition, permission to store their scooter may be withdrawn.
- 3.8. Residents are recommended to acquire insurance for their mobility scooter covering personal liability and accidental damage to other people and property. If damage is caused the resident, the costs of repairs may be recharged to the resident by the Council, in line with our recharge policy.
- 3.9. Where there is more demand to store scooters than is safely and practically possible, we will create a waiting list for each building with shared space. We will prioritise spaces for people who are in receipt of the mobility related welfare benefits. Otherwise spaces will be allocated on a first come, first serve basis.

- 3.10. Whilst each case would be considered on its own merits, lacking a facility to store a mobility scooter is unlikely to be something that will result in urgent medical priority for a move under the council's housing allocation scheme.

Properties with Communal Areas

- 3.11. No mobility scooter should be stored in a communal area without explicit written permission.
- 3.12. The council takes a zero-tolerance¹ approach to the storage of items in communal areas in properties with six or more stories and / or where there is only one means of escape. Any combustible items (which includes mobility scooters) in one of these areas can be removed with immediate effect and put into storage.
- 3.13. All landlords are taking a much more stringent approach to fire safety post-Grenfell. Any previous permission which has been granted to store a mobility scooter in a communal area which presents a health and safety risk will be removed.
- 3.14. In some situations, in properties with fewer than six storeys, multiple means of entry, and where an assessment confirms that the scooter can be stored without creating a risk, we may grant permission for a resident to store a scooter by their front door.

Properties without communal areas

- 3.15. For houses, bungalows or flats without shared entrances or communal areas, there is less likely to be any issues for the use, storage or charging of mobility scooters. There may be issues in terms of customers requesting permission for work to amend footpaths, steps etc. in order to facilitate their usage, or even potentially the provision of storage facilities.
- 3.16. These requests may come in the form of referrals from Occupational Therapists recommendations linked to Disabled Facilities Grant applications, GPs or other recognised professionals.

Battery Charging

- 3.17. Where it is the most practical solution, customers may be permitted to make use of the landlord's supply, although licenses and additional charges may be levied depending on local circumstances.
- 3.18. No service or maintenance responsibilities for mobility scooters on behalf of the Council are implied by this arrangement.

4.0 Legislation / links to other docs

https://www.nationalfirechiefs.org.uk/write/MediaUploads/NFCC%20Guidance%20publicati ons/Protection/09062018_NFCC_Mobility_Scooter_Guidance_Final.pdf

¹ Please see the Fire Safety in Communal Areas Policy for further details.