

### Mobility Scooter Policy – Request to Undertake Consultation (Housing, Maggie Ward)

**Synopsis of report:**

**This report requests permission to consult with stakeholders on a new Mobility Scooter policy for the HRA Housing stock.**

**This policy outlines the way Runnymede Borough Council will deal with mobility scooter requests whilst ensuring that the health and safety of residents, leaseholders, contractors etc. are maintained.**

**Recommendation:**

**Members approve a consultation exercise on the new Mobility Scooter Policy (Appendix A) with the results of the consultation and a final draft policy to be brought to this Committee in September 2022**

#### **1. Context**

- 1.1 There is increased use of motorised mobility equipment throughout the population. A policy is required to ensure that the Council manages the use of such items within its buildings to ensure the safety of all residents. A process is necessary for requesting permission to store or charge a mobility scooter within a Council facility.

#### **2. Report**

- 2.1 A draft Mobility Scooter Policy is attached as Appendix A and Members are asked to approve a consultation exercise with residents.
- 2.2 The aim of this policy is to ensure;
- RBC meet its statutory obligations in relation to Health and Safety and Fire Safety legislation
  - Mobility scooters do not cause health and safety hazards
  - Mobility scooters do not block any communal areas including fire escapes/exits
  - Clear guidance is provided on how to safely use and store mobility scooters
  - Residents obtain permission prior to purchasing or leasing a mobility scooter
  - Residents adhere to their responsibilities relating to storage, charging and use of a mobility scooter
  - Residents are aware of liability for any injuries or damages
- 2.3 In this policy “mobility scooter” means Class 2 or 3 machines as defined under the Use of Invalid Carriages on Highways Regulations 1988
- 2.4 There is provision for the storage of mobility scooters in all Independent Retirement Living Schemes (IRL) but the increasing number of residents who want to use a scooter means that provision is not adequate, and this will be addressed in the planned upgrade of IRL.
- 2.5 It is essential that the Council knows which residents have motorised scooters and can ensure that regular health and safety checks are carried out on them as they can pose a fire risk if not maintained or used inappropriately.

- 2.6 No scooters may be stored or charged in any communal areas other than those designated for this purpose.
- 2.7 In order to obtain permission for a mobility scooter with allocated storage, applications will need to have a supporting report from a Surrey County Council Occupational Therapist.
- 2.8 Where a property does not have facilities for scooter storage applications for this to be provided will be dealt with under the Disabled Adaptations Policy for the Council Housing Stock 2021 - 2015

### **3. Resource implications/Value for Money**

- 3.1 None

### **4. Legal implications**

- 4.1 The policy takes into account the following legislation;
- Health and Safety at Work Act 1974
  - Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999
  - Regulatory Reform (Fire safety) Order 2005 (FSO)
  - Equality Act 2010
  - The Care Act 2014
- 4.2 In addition to the authority's duties as a social landlord, under the general law and the various housing Acts.

### **5. Equality implications**

- 5.1 The Equality Impact screening (Appendix B) found a full impact assessment is not required as this new policy is being put in place to ensure fairness with mobility scooter requests in a fair and transparent way.
- 5.2 There is no evidence that tenants with any of the nine protected characteristics will be negatively impacted by this policy. Rather, it is anticipated that this policy will promote equality.
- 5.3 It is therefore considered that the Council will comply with its Public Sector Equality duty when endorsing this Policy and a full impact assessment is not required at this stage.

### **6. Environmental/Sustainability/Biodiversity implications**

- 6.1 None

### **7. Consultation Strategy**

- 7.1 As this policy will impact specifically on older and disabled residents, in addition to publishing the consultation on our website there will be targeted communication with these residents.

- 7.2 Consultation will be open for 8 weeks following which a report with the results of this will be brought back to this Committee.

**8. Conclusions**

- 8.1 Members are asked to approve the draft Mobility Scooter Policy (Appendix A) for consultation with stakeholders.

(To Resolve)

**Background Papers**

None