

## EQUALITY SCREENING

Equality impact assessment guidance should be considered when completing this form.

POLICY/FUNCTION/ACTIVITY	LEAD OFFICER
Mobility Scooter Policy	Luisa Cantore-Norris

**A. What is the aim of this policy, function or activity?** Why is it needed? What is it hoped to achieve and how will it be ensured it works as intended? Does it affect service users, employees or the wider community?

The aim of this policy is to outline the Council's new process and requirements with obtaining and owning a mobility scooter.

This policy will allow the Council's requirements in relation to mobility scooters to be clear, transparent, and easily understood.

Mobility scooters can promote independence for residents for as long as possible which has a positive impact on daily living.

This policy also allows clarity on suitable accommodations for mobility scooters and how to suitably store and charge them as well as outlining responsibilities of owning one.

**B. Is this policy/function/activity relevant to equality? Consider the following protected characteristics: race, disability, gender, gender reassignment, pregnancy/maternity, religion/belief, sexual orientation, marriage/civil partnership and age.** Does the policy relate to an area in which there are known inequalities, or where different groups have different needs or experience? Remember, it may be relevant because there are opportunities to promote equality and greater access, not just potential for adverse impacts or unlawful discrimination.

The aim of this policy is to ensure the Council meets its statutory obligations in relation to Health and safety and Fire Safety legislations.

It is also to ensure there is clear guidance on how to safely store and use mobility scooters, ensuring residents obtain permission prior to purchasing or leasing a scooter and to ensure they do not cause hazards, or block any communal areas including fire escapes.

This policy also outlines the responsibility residents have in relation to liability for any injuries or damages caused with a mobility scooter.

Obtaining permission will include an assessment by an Occupational Therapist and based on assessed need.

Mobility scooters present a potential source of ignition and increase fire loading, if mobility scooters are not being stored or charged correctly or safely. This could increase the risk of fire within a block. Therefore, this policy should assist with reducing this risk.

The use of mobility vehicles is growing and that is likely to continue as our population ages. In relation to the protected characteristics of 'disability' – currently there is no legal requirement for mobility scooters stores to be provided to all council housing stock. However,

the Council recognises as our population ages and residents' needs increase the need for a mobility scooter may be needed, this is why the Council will provide suitable storage in all its Independent Retirement Living (IRL) schemes (limited number of spaces available).

The policy makes it clear that if a resident already has a mobility scooter prior to the start date of this policy, permission to keep a mobility will be given consideration without an OT assessment. However, if permission is given this will only be given for one mobility scooter per tenant.

This policy would have a positive impact on the protected characteristics of age and disability as approval to obtain a mobility scooter is based on assessed need and limited to one scooter per resident. This will, allow for more residents who have an assessed need for a mobility scooter to obtain and store one.

This policy also requires mobility scooter owners to ensure Portable Appliance Test (PAT) and adequate insurance is in place and certificates submitted to the Council annually. This ensures mobility scooters are safe to use.

If the policy, function or activity is considered to be relevant to equality then a full equality impact assessment must be carried out and [C] below need not be completed.

**C. If it is not considered to be relevant to equality, what are the reasons for this conclusion?**

What evidence has been used to make this decision? A simple statement of 'no relevance' or 'no data' is not sufficient.

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.

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.

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.

This screening assessment will need to be referred to the Equality Group for challenge before sign-off.

Date completed: February 2022

Sign-off by senior manager: Angela Horsey