



Changes to the Blue Badge parking scheme

The Blue Badge parking scheme is for people with severe mobility problems. It allows Blue Badge holders to park close to where they need to go.



Changes to the Blue Badge parking scheme will be introduced from 1 January 2012.

These changes are part of the Government's national Blue Badge reform programme which has been developed in consultation with disabled service users, local authorities and other interest groups.

From the 1 January 2012, there will be:

- A new design for Blue Badges, which incorporates an anti-fraud hologram to help reduce theft and fraud
- A fee of £10.00
- An on-line application facility.

Why is the Blue Badge scheme changing?

The scheme is being changed to:

- Reduce high levels of misuse by designing a new badge that is harder to copy, forge or alter
- Help ensure that people with severe mobility difficulties are treated fairly when they are being assessed for a Blue Badge
- Respond to the increasing demand for Blue Badges.

Can I continue to use my current Blue Badge?

Yes. You will only need to renew your Blue Badge when it expires.

I currently have a Blue Badge. What will happen when it's time to renew it?

All Blue Badges due to be issued after 31 December 2011, including renewal applications, will be processed under the new scheme. To ensure you can continue to use your Blue Badge please renew at least two weeks before your badge expires.

How long will the new Blue Badge be valid for?

Blue Badges will be valid for a maximum period of three years. This is dependent on the criteria applied at the time of issue.

Will there be changes to the Blue Badge fee?

Yes. A fee of £10.00 will be charged for the issue of a Blue Badge which covers the production, issue and postage of the new badge.



What will happen if my child needs a Blue Badge, will it still be £10.00 from 1 January 2012?

Yes. All Blue Badge holders will pay the same fee.

How do I apply for a Blue Badge?

You may apply:

- on-line through the www.direct.gov.uk or www.newham.gov.uk websites
- call 020 8430 2000 and we will send you an application form
- call into a Local Service Centre with your supporting information, a passport photograph and the means to pay the £10 fee (debit or credit card preferred).

How long will it take to process my application?

All Blue Badge applications, new and renewals are assessed on an individual basis against Department for Transport guidelines. If your application is successful your badge will be posted to you. You can normally expect to receive it within 14 days of when we approve your application.

Further information

To find information on who can qualify for a Blue Badge, what supporting evidence you may need to provide and where you will be able to use it in Newham visit **www.newham.gov.uk**

Further details about the Blue Badge reform are available on the Department for Transport website **www.dft.gov.uk**