Your Blue Badge Application – Additional Information

We aim to process your application in a timely manner and to issue replacement badges before your current badge expires. Please find below information regarding the process which you may find useful:

- The quickest and most convenient way for you to process your application is online. If you, a member of your family or a friend have access to the internet you can apply online through the Directgov website (www.gov.uk and search for ‘Apply for a Badge’). The website also has an eligibility checker should you wish to check if you are eligible for a Badge.

- Due to the volume of applications we are presently dealing with, it may not be possible to see you in person if you present yourself at Green Lane Spennymoor for assistance with any aspect of your application. If you have any queries in relation to the application process, please could you contact us on 03000 269425.

- If you are sending in a written application form, please ensure you use the correct postage amount otherwise your application will not be delivered by the Post Office and the Council will not cover the cost of additional postage and charges for delivery.

- If you have previously held a Badge, this does not mean you will automatically receive a Badge in the future. All applications are assessed with regards to eligibility and, therefore, it is important that you fully complete the application form.

- We no longer write to GP’s in order to determine eligibility for a Badge. The Department for Transport has amended Blue Badge Regulations requiring independent mobility assessments to be used as part of the assessment process if required. In Durham, we have Occupational Therapists who specialise in carrying out mobility assessments for Blue Badges and you may be asked to attend a mobility assessment at one of their clinics.

- Please ensure you submit your application form with all relevant documentation in a timely fashion.

- Please note that if you are applying under the Personal Independence Payment (PIP) payment method you must supply a copy of your letter of entitlement dated within the last 12 months and the letter must state the number of points you receive. A badge will only be issued for the duration of your award, if not indefinitely.

- Please allow a minimum of six weeks from submitting your application form for us to respond to your application before contacting us.

- If you are approved for a Blue Badge, the fee is £10 from 1st January 2012. Please do not send payment with your application form as we are no longer able to receive payments in this office. If payment is enclosed it will be...
returned. Payment will be requested should your application be approved and you will be given a number of payment options.

- Part D, of our application form, is to be completed if the questions in Part C do not apply to you and if you have a permanent and substantial disability which means you cannot walk or which means that you have very considerable difficulty walking. A permanent disability is one that is likely to last for the duration of your life. Medical conditions such as asthma, autism, psychological / behavioural problems, Crohn’s disease / incontinent conditions and Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (M.E.) are not in themselves qualification for a badge. People with these conditions may be eligible under this criterion, but only if they are unable to walk or have very considerable difficulty in walking, in addition to their condition. Temporary disabilities lasting less than three years will not normally qualify for a Badge.

- Part E, of our application form, should be completed by applicants who have a severe disability in both arms. You will need to show that you drive a vehicle regularly, that you have a severe disability in both arms and that you are unable to operate, or have considerable difficulty operating, all or some types of on-street parking equipment. You will need to satisfy all three conditions above in order to obtain a badge. Local authorities may make arrangements to meet applicants applying under this criteria.

- In Part F, of our application form, concerning children under three, the list of bulky medical equipment referred to may include:
  - ventilators;
  - suction machines;
  - feed pumps;
  - parenteral equipment;
  - syringe drivers;
  - oxygen administration equipment;
  - continuous oxygen saturation monitoring equipment; and
  - casts and associated medical equipment for the correction of hip dysplasia.

A local authority may issue a badge if the equipment is always needed and cannot be carried without great difficulty.

Examples of highly unstable medical conditions that mean children who have them may need quick access to transport to hospital or home are:
  - tracheostomies;
  - severe epilepsy/fitting;
  - highly unstable diabetes; and
  - terminal illnesses that prevent children from spending any more than brief moments outside and who need a quick route home.

Please note that the above lists are not exhaustive, to allow for new advances in technology and treatment equipment.