

# CWOP/33/11

**Policy & Scrutiny Committee** Community and Older People

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## **Purpose of Report**

**To inform Members and provide an overview of the main changes resulting from the Blue Badge programme of reforms being introduced in Jan 2012. This is an interim report at this stage and further information will be available following a detailed impact assessment and agreement on the way forward.**

## **General Background**

On 14 February 2011 Transport Minister Norman Baker announced a programme of reforms to modernise the Blue Badge scheme in England. The measures outlined in the announcement are designed to tackle badge fraud and misuse and to make the scheme fairer and more sustainable in the long term for those disabled people who most rely on it.

## **Summary of changes:**

- There will be a centralised Blue Badge system for the whole of the UK
- Badges will be produced centrally
- On line application forms will be available including a facility to pay online
- There will be an option for us to charge £10 to offset costs of each newly designed badge instead of no charge as at present
- A move towards independent mobility assessments by mid 2012

## **What this will mean:**

- Badges will be harder to copy, forge and alter
- Avoidance of multiple copies of badges being issued
- Shared data available to enforcement authorities
- Improved customer service as a result of online facilities
- Improved disabled parking spaces as less badges in circulation
- Opportunities for us to review our charging policy in line with improved customer service