

Date 8 March 2012

As part of Blue Badge reforms coming into place on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012, Local Authorities will be required to organise independent mobility assessments rather than use GP assessments to

determine eligibility for Blue Badges in around 12,000 discretionary cases per annum. The preferred procurement route is a 12 month pilot in line with Department for Transport guidance. It is proposed to use Essex Cares to provide this service for the Pilot including:

- The provision of independent mobility assessments and appeals process by professionals appropriately trained in the assessment of mobility and registered with the Health Professions Council
- Delivery of the above via independent mobility assessment 'clinics' hosted throughout Essex
- Reporting the result of each assessment to the ECC Blue Badge Team
- Providing a booking process and reporting to the ECC Blue Badge Team a recommendation to either assess the applicant again in three years or not assess the applicant again

<b>MEMBER DECISION</b>
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Feedback from the public engagement exercise is giving a very clear steer in favour of reinstating the charging regime for Blue Badges at £10 for a three year badge. It is therefore recommended that the charge be introduced from April 2012 following a 6 week period of notice to key stakeholders and service user groups.

Delivery of independent mobility assessments hosted across Essex using Essex Cares for a pilot period of one year.