

Waverley Borough Council

Report to: EWG: Landlord Services Advisory Board

Date: 29 February 2024

Ward(s) affected: All

Report of Director: Community Wellbeing

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Report Status: Open

Senior Living Powered Mobility Device Policy

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Senior Living Powered Mobility Device Policy has been reviewed and updated.

2. Recommendation to LSAB:

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Board:
 - Review the Senior Living Powered Mobility Device Policy and make any comments to the Senior Living and Careline Services Manager and Co-Portfolio Holder for Housing (Operations and Services).
 - Support the adoption and implementation of the policy.

3. Reason(s) for Recommendation:

- 3.1 To provide the Board members the opportunity to comment on the updated policy and support its implementation.

4. Exemption from publication

- 4.1 No.

5. Purpose of Report

- 5.1 Powered mobility devices are used by tenants who live in the Senior Living Schemes. The updates in this policy aim to make the permission process to store, use, and charge a scooter within schemes consistent, reduce fire safety risks, and to improve record keeping.

6. Background

- 6.1 There are eight Senior Living Schemes across the borough. Each has about thirty self-contained flats and a communal lounge, laundry, and garden. There are five Senior Living Officers who work across the eight schemes to manage the building safety and the tenancies.
- 6.2 A powered mobility device is defined in this policy as any electric battery powered machine that is used by an individual to aid their mobility outside of their home. This includes mobility scooters, e-scooters, and e-bikes.
- 6.3 There are approximately 30 mobility devices that are used, stored, and charged across the eight schemes. Five of the schemes currently have a designated communal storage area for mobility devices, with one more storage area under construction at Shepherds Court.
- 6.4 This policy was last reviewed in 2017. Following consultation with Senior Living Officers and Senior Living tenants it was identified that improvements could be made.

6.5 There are two main changes made by the updated policy:

- The procedure that is followed to determine whether permission for a mobility device should be granted has been standardised across all schemes and expanded to include a risk assessment led by the Fire Safety Officer.
- The record keeping about which devices have permission has been improved.

6.5 The updated policy will be used for all new mobility devices brought into the schemes. All devices currently stored in the scheme will be gradually assessed retrospectively, over the next six months.

7. Strategic Priorities

7.1 The report supports the Council's Corporate commitment to promote *"Good quality housing for all income levels and age groups"* and aim to *"be the best council landlord in the South East and to be acknowledged so by our tenants."*

8. Consultations

8.1 Senior Living Officer and Senior Living tenants were consulted informally throughout this process to discuss any challenges with the current practice and evaluate any potential solutions.

9. Key Risks

9.1 The charging of powered mobility devices can pose a fire risk if safety precautions are not followed. This policy ensures that the risk will be evaluated and minimised before permission to charge the device within the scheme is granted.

9.2 Waverley Borough Council has a duty to make reasonable adjustments to their service to make it accessible under the Equality Act 2010. This policy ensures that any adjustments are evaluated to determine if they are reasonable.

10. Financial Implications

- 10.1 There are no financial implications.
- 10.2 The updated policy will be implemented within existing budgets and delivered by existing resources.

11. Legal Implications

- 11.1 None.

12. Human Resource Implications

- 12.1 The Senior Living Officers will continue to be responsible for managing the requests to use, store, and charge a mobility device within the schemes.
- 12.2 The Fire Compliance Officer will be responsible for determining whether it is safe to store and charge a mobility device within a flat.
- 12.3 The Senior Living and Careline Services Manager will be responsible for reviewing any proposed adjustments to determine if they are 'reasonable' and for reviewing any situations where the tenant disagrees with the decision made.

13. Equality and Diversity Implications

- 13.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed. No negative impacts were identified. Positive impacts on people with disabilities that impact their mobility and on elderly people were identified as these groups are likely to rely on mobility devices and this policy will make the process of obtaining permission to use, store, and charge them more consistent.

14. Climate Change/Sustainability Implications

- 14.1 None.

15. Summary of Options

15.1 Support the adoption of the updated policy or not.

16. Conclusion

16.1 The updated policy will make the process through which tenants apply for permission to use, store, and charge a mobility device within the schemes more consistent, reduce fire safety risks and will improve record keeping and therefore, it is recommended that the Board supports its implementation.

17. Appendices

17.1 Appendix 1 – Senior Living Powered Mobility Device Policy.

Please ensure the following service areas have signed off your report.
Please complete this box, and do not delete.

Service	Sign off date
Finance / S.151 Officer	CK 6 Feb 2024
Legal / Governance	n/a no change
HR	n/a no change
Equalities	EIA completed
Lead Councillor	8 Feb 2024
CMB	20 Feb 2024 Not required
Executive Briefing/Liaison	Not required
Committee Services	