

## Mobility Scooter Policy



### MOBILITY SCOOTER POLICY (Excluding Parkland View)

#### Policy Control

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Department	Housing Management
Author	Tracy O'Connor
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To be read in conjunction with (other policies)	N/A
Has equalities impact assessment been considered? Please include within policy.	An Equality Impact Assessment not been completed, in writing the policy we have had to consider the Government Guidance and rules around the use of mobility scooters which are already set out.
Policy approved by Designation Date	
Meeting approved Date	
Implementation Date	
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Next review date	

### Mobility Scooter Policy

#### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 This policy applies only to those tenants and leaseholders who purchase a mobility scooter through personal choice.
- 1.2 It is becoming increasingly common for older people and those with mobility problems to use mobility scooters to get around and thus maintain their independence. This is an important consideration for Derby Homes, and we will seek to enable people to retain their independence for as long as possible and wherever possible.
- 1.3 However, many of our homes were designed and built before the use of mobility scooters became widespread. As a result, the safe use, storage and charging of mobility scooters in our customer's homes and on our estates can often be difficult.
- 1.4 In discharging the Council's landlord duty on their behalf, we must consider and do what is reasonable to reduce the risk to properties and individuals that could happen because of inappropriate storage, charging, or unsafe use of mobility scooters.
- 1.5 Our approach to mobility scooter use is primarily designed to help protect all residents, visitors, and staff. Therefore, all tenants and leaseholders must seek permission from Derby Homes if they want to purchase a mobility scooter where the intention is to store it on any external communal ground managed by Derby Homes or within a Derby Homes communal scooter store.
- 1.6 Permission will not be unreasonably withheld, and we will consider retrospective permission if need be. However, after considering requests it may not be feasible to give permission if there is inadequate space or it will have a detrimental impact on the safety of others.
- 1.7 Derby Homes will not give permission to store, use or charge a mobility scooter in the shared internal communal areas of our buildings. Point 5.4 of the **Derby Homes Fire Safety and Management Policy** helps us recognise why these areas should be kept clear.
- 1.8 Derby Homes will ensure that where we give permission to store a mobility scooter that the government rules around mobility scooters is considered <https://www.gov.uk/mobility-scooters-and-powered-wheelchairs-rules> alongside the publicised National Fire Chiefs Council Mobility Scooter Guidance [www.nationalfirechiefs.org](http://www.nationalfirechiefs.org)

#### 2.0 Mobility Scooter Definition

- 2.1 This policy covers mobility scooters classed in these two categories:

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- Class 2: these cannot be used on the road (except where there is not a pavement) and have a maximum speed of 4mph.
- Class 3: these can be used on the road and have a maximum speed of 4mph off the road and 8mph on the road.

#### **3.0 Vehicle Tax, Registration, and Insurance**

- 3.1 Currently you do not have to pay vehicle tax for class 2 or class 3 mobility scooters.
- 3.2 Currently you do not have to register class 2 mobility scooters, however class 3 mobility scooters must be registered with the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DLVA).
- 3.3 There is no legal requirement to have insurance when operating a vehicle mobility scooter on public land, although this is recommended to protect against third party claims.
- 3.4 Derby Homes strongly recommends customers to consider insurance when permission is sought to store a mobility scooter on external communal ground managed by Derby Homes, or within a communal mobility scooter store.

#### **4.0 External Communal Areas**

- 4.1 Derby Homes can control what is put on the external communal areas under the Tenancy agreement condition 3.23 which states: You, or anyone living with you, must keep any communal area, either inside or outside the property, clean, tidy, and free from rubbish or furniture always to the reasonable satisfaction of the Council.
- 4.2 When a request is received to store a mobility scooter on external communal ground, if there is a mobility scooter store on-site, we will expect this store to be used.
- 4.4 There is a charge applied for the use of the mobility scooter stores provided by Derby Homes which covers the upkeep of the store. Conditions for the use of the store will be applied to ensure it is used responsibly.
- 4.5 This charge also covers an annual PAT test of the mobility scooter, which will be carried out by Derby Homes, and which is required as part of the conditions.
- 4.6 To support independence, where there is no mobility scooter store on site, we will consider providing a store in those areas where we commonly let our properties to older or disabled people should there be enough demand for this.

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- 4.7 Where there is no store provided on site we will consider the request alongside the publicised National Fire Chiefs Council Mobility Scooter Guidance and the impact the provision could have on others and the loss of any communal space.

#### 5.0 Category 2 Scheme Accommodation

- 5.1 This type of category defines a group of buildings where they are commonly let to people over 60 years of age or to people with a disability and this type of accommodation is accessed through a shared entrance door:

- Rebecca House
- Whitecross House
- Kestrel House
- Rose Homes

- 5.2 Mobility scooters cannot be brought into these building under the Tenancy Agreement condition 3.20 which states: If you are living in a category 2 Supported Housing Scheme, you or anyone living with you or visiting you must not bring, store, or use a motorised scooter within the building.

- 5.3 All our Category 2 schemes have external mobility scooter stores.

#### 6.0 Home Fire Safety Check and Routine Visits

- 6.1 When we identify a mobility scooter in our customer's homes through home fire safety checks and other routine visits, we will provide advice to help ensure our customers store it, use it, and charge it safely.
- 6.2 When we are satisfied the mobility scooter is not stored or charged safely or it is being used inappropriately and has the potential to cause a danger to themselves and others, we will use the Tenancy Agreement conditions to bring about changes or other legal remedies available that are considered appropriate.