

Council 30th January 2024
Opposition motion in the name of Cllr Alex Prager
Digital Blue Badges for Barnet

Council Notes that:

- Blue Badges are regularly lost or stolen, and they are an easy target for thieves to steal.
- Counterfeit paper Blue Badges are easily made.
- Over 100 cases of Blue Badge fraud have been investigated by the borough in the past 18 months alone.
- Three officers are employed full-time to investigate Blue Badge Fraud, who could be reallocated to support other CAFT investigations.
- Most cases of Blue Badge fraud do not result in a conviction or a fine.
- The rollout of additional CPZs across the borough alongside the ULEZ expansion is likely to create an increase in Blue Badge Fraud.
- Haringey Council became the first council in the country to introduce Digital Blue Badges in November 2022.
- Since the introduction of the scheme, Blue Badge thefts in Haringey have fallen by 65%.
- The Metropolitan Police reported 528 incidents of Blue Badge thefts, which fell to 185 in the period when the Digital Badges were introduced.
- In recent years Barnet has effectively introduced digital CPZ and pay-and-display permits, essentially establishing the infrastructure for digital Blue Badges.

Council Resolves:

To ask the Cabinet Member for Environment & Climate Change to:

- Instruct officers to explore the implementation of a digital Barnet-focused scheme that also considers those who may not be technologically savvy.
- Brief members on the progress of any implementation, and
- If the system is to be implemented, report a full business case to cabinet.

Under Council Procedure Rule 15.5 this motion is to stand referred to the Executive as it refers to matters within the powers of the executive