



London Borough of Barnet

Cabinet – 6 February 2024

The following motion has been considered a matter falling within the powers of the Executive and identified in the Council summons. As such, the motion shall stand referred to the next meeting of the Executive in accordance with the Council Constitution Part 3A, section 15.5.1.

Reference from Council: 30 January 2024

Motion: Digital Blue Badges for Barnet

Proposer: Councillor Alex Prager

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.

Council RESOLVED that the Motion, as set out above, be recommended to the Executive for consideration.

FOR CONSIDERATION**Background documents:**

Motion submitted to the Council meeting – 30 January 2024:

<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s81785/Opposition%20motion%20in%20the%20name%20of%20Cllr%20Alex%20Prager-%20Blue%20Badges.pdf>

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