

Midlothian Council Annual Report to Scottish Ministers on the Implementation of the Disabled Persons' Parking Places (Scotland) Act 2009 in the Period from 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Disabled Persons' Parking Places (Scotland) Act 2009 ('DPPP') places duties on Councils in Scotland to provide enforceable parking places for disabled people whose vehicles display a valid 'blue badge'.
- 1.2 DPPP requires each Council to prepare, publish and submit to Scottish Ministers an annual report recording the progress made to implement the Act in the preceding period.
- 1.3 Information which must be included in the report to Ministers is specified in detail in the Schedule to DPPP.

2 Implementation

- 2.1 Midlothian Council has been able to continue the employment of a member of staff specifically dealing with progressing traffic regulation orders. This has meant that two Traffic Regulation Orders for a total of 128 disabled parking places was completed in 2016. However in August a member of staff heavily involved with carrying out assessments and the preparation of drawings for disabled parking places passed away suddenly. Unfortunately his post was not replaced and due to initial resource difficulties until the early part of 2017 there was a considerable delay in processing the applications. Additional resources were allocated early in 2017 to reduce the backlog of disabled parking place applications and the assessments are now up to date.
- 2.2 A steady stream of new applications is being received from disabled people who are experiencing difficulty in parking close to their homes (94 applications during 2016/2017).
- 2.3 Businesses in Midlothian are due to be contacted during Autumn 2017 regarding disabled parking places. It is planned to complete the consultation with all of the businesses in Midlothian by the end of October.
- 2.4 The new Act placed considerable extra responsibilities on local authorities. No additional funding was made available for signs and lines. However the Council is still able to assess applications reasonably quickly and the disabled spaces are generally painted on the ground quite quickly depending on the availability of the road marking contractor. In most cases the presence of the initial "advisory" disabled road markings is enough to resolve any parking issues.
- 2.5 The specific information required by the Act is set out in the attached Schedule.