

Mobility Scooter Policy

Closes	5 September 2024
Opened	25 July 2024
Contact	housing_strategy@sandwell.gov.uk

Overview:

We are working in partnership with local residents to develop our Mobility Scooter Policy, which is currently being revised.

Mobility scooters have become an increasingly popular mode of transportation for individuals with disabilities or mobility issues – this is especially apparent in Sandwell where the proportion of residents identifying as disabled is 20% (compared to 17.8% in England and Wales).

As the use of these mobility vehicles grows, so do the concerns regarding their safe storage and use in communal areas in council accommodation. These concerns include fire safety, trip hazards and building damage. Therefore, there is a need to monitor mobility scooter usage to protect and preserve the health and safety of all residents living within our accommodation, as well as visitors and our staff.

Our Mobility Scooter Policy would allow us to:

- Ensure every tenant or leaseholder should notify Sandwell Council of their possession of a mobility scooter so that a record of this will be kept.
- Introduce a management scheme to ensure that mobility scooters are maintained, stored and charged safely.
- Issue advice for tenants regarding the purchase of suitable mobility scooters and awareness of the health and safety risks associated with their safe storage.
- Please take the time to read the draft policy document before responding.

Comments are invited on the consultation by **Tuesday 16 July**. Your responses to this consultation will be anonymous.

Why your views matter:

It is really important that we have the perspectives of as many people as possible who live and work in Sandwell every day when developing the policy. We want to make sure that everyone has had an opportunity to be part of shaping this with us and look forward to hearing from as many of you as possible.

If you have any questions about the document or the consultation as a whole, please email housing_strategy@sandwell.gov.uk.

In line with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) 2018, we will ensure all the information you provide is stored securely, following the seven key principles of GDPR. For further information please visit our privacy notice page at <http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/privacynotices>.

About you section:

1. Please tick which best describes your interest in this consultation.

Please select all that apply.

- ☐ A tenant living in socially rented accommodation
- ☐ A homeowner
- ☐ A private rented tenant/person living rent free
- ☐ A homeless person, or person with a non-secure address
- ☐ A member of a voluntary or community partner organisation
- ☐ A member of a national organisation
- ☐ A social rented sector landlord (including registered providers)
- ☐ A Sandwell Council employee
- ☐ A Sandwell Councillor or Cabinet Member
- ☐ Other (please state in the box below)
- ☐ Prefer not to say

If you selected 'other', please provide further details.

2. Are you a mobility scooter user or live with someone who is?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Prefer not to say

3. Please state which type of accommodation you live in:

- ☐ House

- ☐ Flat
- ☐ Maisonette
- ☐ Apartment
- ☐ Bungalow
- ☐ A caravan or other mobile or temporary structure
- ☐ Other (please state in the box below)
- ☐ Prefer not to say

If you selected 'other', please provide further details:

4. Please state your age group (required):

- ☐ 18 to 24
- ☐ 25 to 34
- ☐ 35 to 59
- ☐ 60 to 64
- ☐ 65 and over
- ☐ Prefer not to say

5. What is your gender?

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female
- ☐ Transgender
- ☐ Non-binary
- ☐ Prefer not to say

6. What best describes your ethnicity? (required)

- ☐ Bangladeshi
- ☐ Chinese
- ☐ Indian
- ☐ Pakistani
- ☐ Sikh
- ☐ Other Asian
- ☐ African
- ☐ Caribbean
- ☐ Other Black
- ☐ White and Asian
- ☐ White and Black African
- ☐ Other Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups
- ☐ White and Black Caribbean
- ☐ English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British
- ☐ Irish
- ☐ Gypsy or Irish Traveller
- ☐ Roma
- ☐ Other White
- ☐ Arab
- ☐ Any other ethnic group

7. What is your postcode?

Please enter your postcode in the text box below:

8. Do you consider yourself to have a disability or long-term health condition?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Not sure/do not wish to say

Overall vision:

9. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the Mobility Scooter Policy's overall vision?

This policy document aims to support responsible mobility scooter users in council accommodation by setting out the safety concerns and management options available.

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Somewhat agree
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
- ☐ Somewhat disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree

Please tell us why?

Policy aims:

10. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this policy aim of the document?

To promote the use and safe storage of mobility scooters and provide a clear statement on the management of mobility scooter storage and use within the Council's communal spaces.

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Somewhat agree
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
- ☐ Somewhat disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree

Please tell us why?

11. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this policy aim of the document?

To protect and preserve the health and safety of all residents living within our accommodation, as well as staff and visitors.

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Somewhat agree
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
- ☐ Somewhat disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree

Please tell us why?

12. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this policy aim of the document?

To ensure all new and existing tenants are aware before they purchase or lease a mobility scooter, they must seek permission from the Council to ensure there is adequate storage and charging facilities available.

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Somewhat agree
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
- ☐ Somewhat disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree

Please tell us why?

13. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this policy aim of the document?

To encourage all residents to purchase adequate scooter insurance, arrange annual Portable Appliance Testing (PAT) for their scooter and keep theirs in good working order.

To make tenants aware of their responsibilities with regard to storage and use of mobility scooters.

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Somewhat agree
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
- ☐ Somewhat disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree

Please tell us why?

14. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this policy aim of the document?

To make tenants aware of their responsibilities with regard to storage and use of mobility scooters.

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Somewhat agree
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
- ☐ Somewhat disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree

Please tell us why?

15. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this policy aim of the document?

To ensure mobility scooter owners are aware that they will be held liable for any injury to other people or damage caused to the building or communal area as a result of incorrect storage or use of their scooter and will be recharged for any damage.

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Somewhat agree
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
- ☐ Somewhat disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree

Please tell us why?

16. Are there any things you think are missing from the Mobility Scooter Policy and, if so, what are they?

17. What more would you like Sandwell Council to do as an organisation to deliver housing in the borough?

By handing in this form, you give us permission to analyse and include your responses in our results. After we receive the form, you will no longer be able to change any of your answers.