

BLUE BADGE

From the Government document 'Blue Badge Local Authority Guidance';

'The aim of the (Blue badge) scheme is to help disabled people with severe mobility problems to access goods and services by allowing them to park close to their destination. The scheme is open to eligible disabled people irrespective of travelling as a driver or as a passenger. The scheme provides a national range of on-street parking concessions to Blue Badge holders. It allows them to park without charge or time limit in otherwise restricted on-street parking environments and allows them to park on yellow lines for up to three hours unless a loading ban is in place.' In August 2019, legislation was changed to make those with hidden conditions eligible for a Blue Badge. This means that those with hidden conditions that are 'causing them to struggle with journeys between a vehicle and their destination severely, and either: Is constantly a significant risk to themselves or others near vehicles, in traffic or car parks' are now able to apply for a Blue Badge.

Eligibility

A person would be automatically eligible if they scored 10 points in "Planning and following a journey" in their PIP mobility assessment. Specifically, the 10 points which say: **Cannot undertake any journey because it would cause overwhelming psychological distress to the claimant.** If the applicant did not score this, they could still apply. Their local council will look at their application.

Other benefits

There is no automatic eligibility under the new criteria with other benefits, including:

- ▶ Disability Living Allowance (DLA)
- ▶ Attendance Allowance (AA).

If anyone applying receives one of these benefits, they can still apply. Their local council will look at their application.

- ▶ A Blue Badge costs up to £10 in England and £20 in Scotland. It's free in Wales.
- ▶ They usually last up to 3 years.
- ▶ You must reapply for a Blue Badge before your current one expires.
- ▶ To find out more about the Blue Badge scheme in Southend, please visit their website; www.southend.gov.uk/blue-badge/qualifying-blue-badge/3

To apply for a Blue Badge, please go the Government website



[WWW.GOV.UK/
APPLY-BLUE-
BADGE](http://WWW.GOV.UK/APPLY-BLUE-BADGE)

