



MANCHESTER
CITY COUNCIL

Manchester City Council

Centre of Excellence for Disabled Badge Enforcement



MANCHESTER
CITY COUNCIL

Introduction

- In 2006 Manchester City Council identified a disturbing trend around the abuse of the Disabled Badge Scheme
- Undermined the credibility of the Blue Badge Scheme
- Presented a daily frustration for the city's Civil Enforcement Officers
- Resulted in Manchester's introduction of a designated team of Enforcement Officers





MANCHESTER
CITY COUNCIL

Legislation

Misuse of a genuine Blue Badge

Section 117 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 which reads:

“A person who at any time acts in contravention of or fails to comply with any provision of an order under this Act relating to the parking of motor vehicles is also guilty of an offence under this subsection if at the time”

- a)** there was displayed on the motor vehicle in question a badge purporting to be a recognised badge, and
- b)** he was using the vehicle in circumstances where a concession would, by virtue of section 21B of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970, be available to a vehicle lawfully displaying a recognised badge ,



MANCHESTER
CITY COUNCIL

Legislation

Fraudulent Blue Badge

Section 3 of the Forgery and Counterfeiting Act 1981, which reads:



“It is an offence for a person to use an instrument which is, and which he knows or believes to be, false, with the intention of inducing somebody to accept it as genuine, and by reason of so accepting it to do or not do some act to his own or any other person’s prejudice”.

This type of offence can be heard in either the Magistrates Court or the Crown Court. The maximum penalty on conviction in the Magistrates Court is a fine not exceeding £5000 and/or a term of imprisonment of 6 months. The maximum penalty on conviction in the Crown Court is a term of imprisonment not exceeding 10 years.



MANCHESTER
CITY COUNCIL

Reason for change

- Manchester recognised the legislation wasn't being applied consistently and effectively
- The level of abuse was being highlighted to Parking Services
- No longer enough to rely on the issuing department to enforce misuse
- Manchester took action



MANCHESTER
CITY COUNCIL

Procedures

- A framework was implemented to allow enforcement
- Officers were trained in all procedures
- Best Practise procedures were introduced



MANCHESTER
CITY COUNCIL

Partners

Enforcement Team



Issuing Authorities

Manchester City Council's City Solicitors

Civil Enforcement Officers (NSL)

Police

Disability Awareness Groups



MANCHESTER
CITY COUNCIL

Manchester

We do things differently.....

- All procedures were developed and remain 'in house'
- Bespoke training package developed for Enforcement Officers
- MCC City Solicitors
- Complete autonomy
- Self regulating

Manchester's Successes to date



MANCHESTER
CITY COUNCIL

- 179 successful prosecutions.
- 100% successful prosecution rate.
- Total fines in excess of £45,000.00.
- Total costs awarded in excess of £55,000.00.





MANCHESTER
CITY COUNCIL

Media Coverage

- **Manchester Evening News**
 - “Disabled parking cheats shamed”
 - “Banker parking cheat”
 - “Tears of parking cheat – legal secretary is fined £500 over badge she bought”
- **Councillor Richard Cowell** - Executive Member
 - “The City Council is determined that genuine motorists who have to use the blue badge scheme are protected from people who abuse the system. We will not tolerate motorists who take advantage and think they can get away with free parking.”
- **BBC ‘*Inside Out*’**
 - Featured “fly on the wall” documentary



MANCHESTER
CITY COUNCIL

Recognition

- Nomination for British Parking Awards – Parking Team of the Year (2007)
- Nomination for Manchester City Council Award for Excellence (2008)
- Continued high profile enforcement and media coverage



M.E.N Friday 15th May 2009





MANCHESTER
CITY COUNCIL

Centre of Excellence

- Manchester's continued involvement in the recent dft Blue Badge Reform
- Manchester has designed, implemented and developed a recognised framework that has succeeded in gaining Centre of Excellence status



MANCHESTER
CITY COUNCIL

Progressing your Authority

- Applying legislation to enforcement
- Surveillance
- RIPA authorisation
- PACE interviews
- Interviews under caution
- Effective case preparation
- Witness statements
- Court appearance
- Successful prosecutions





MANCHESTER
CITY COUNCIL

Manchester Blue Badge Enforcement Conference

Thank You

Graham Marsh, Parking Manager
g.marsh@manchester.go.uk

Diane Murphy, Customer Service Manager
d.murphy3@manchester.gov.uk