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10th February 2025

Dear Caroline

Thank you for your letter regarding the motions agreed at the London Assembly (Plenary) meeting concerning Blue Badge theft.

I am pleased that the Assembly recognises the damage that Blue Badge theft has on individuals with disabilities across London, and I reaffirm my commitment to supporting residents who are victims of this crime. I am pleased to confirm that the London Borough of Croydon is already taking action on this important issue.

I welcome the Assembly's motion calling for the Mayor of London and the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime to advocate for the Met to give additional training to officers in identifying and responding to Blue Badge theft.

I also support the Assembly's motion calling for the launch of an awareness campaign by the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime informing Londoners of best practices for safeguarding their Blue Badges with increased access to secure Blue Badge protectors.

Regarding Council staff accessing the Blue Badge database to identify vehicles with stolen badges, I am pleased to confirm that Croydon's Civil Enforcement Officers (CEOs) already have access to the database, which allows them to verify the authenticity of badges displayed on vehicles in real-time. By cross-referencing this information during routine patrols and parking enforcement checks, CEOs can identify any discrepancies and take appropriate action, ensuring that Blue Badges are used only by eligible individuals.

Additionally, in a joint working response to Blue Badge Fraud and theft, Croydon Council will be working on a trial basis with the neighbouring borough of Lambeth to introduce checks on vehicles displaying Blue Badges. This will be rolled out as part of our parking policy in early 2025 to ensure that as a Council, we are tackling this serious crime.

Regarding the replacement of Blue Badges, I am pleased to highlight that Croydon Council's Travel Service has streamlined this process to ensure that those affected receive a replacement swiftly. As a result, where a resident requests a replacement of their Blue Badge when reported as stolen, upon receipt of the relevant information, a replacement is ordered within 48 hours and fast-tracked for delivery in three days.

The London Borough of Croydon is committed to tackling this crime and continuing to review our prevention methods. For example, we also offer 'Companion Badges' as an additional way to tackle the theft of Blue Badges from disabled drivers' vehicles. These permits can only be used by the vehicle displaying the associated registration number. This is an optional badge and can only be used in Croydon.

Whilst I endorse the motion, I am pleased to confirm that, as a Council, we have already taken proactive steps to address this crime across our borough.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jason Perry". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mayor Jason Perry

Executive Mayor of Croydon