



### **LB Lambeth proposed Exemption Policy summary**

Our LTNs maintain access to all streets by motor vehicle, even if journeys can take a little longer in some cases. The key objective of LTNs is to reduce traffic across our neighbourhoods, creating safe, attractive streets and spaces that encourage more people to get around without a car. This is part of wider strategy to reduce traffic across the borough. To make this happen we all need to play our part and that means that any exemptions need to be based on evidence of need, be compatible with the overall objective and be deliverable. The exemptions we are proposing are the result of a structured process considering these factors and integrated with our equality impact analysis of the LTNs.

It is crucial that our LTNs are fair to everyone and we recognise that for some people having access to a car to get around is essential for their health and wellbeing. During our engagement on the LTNs so far, we have received a lot of correspondence from disabled people on this topic. We are also carrying out ongoing, targeted engagement with protected groups, including disabled people who drive or rely on others to drive them.

Based on the evidence, we are proposing an exemption for Blue Badge holders. This exemption will cover both individual Blue Badge holders as well as organisations who qualify for a Blue Badge, such as SEND transport providers for whom we have already granted an exemption. We will also grant an exemption for taxis and fully accessible private hire vehicles that provide an important service for some disabled people.

We are also working with the NHS to identify which of the services they provide may need an exemption. Emergency services are already exempt, and we have led the way across London in ensuring that good access to LTNs is maintained at all times for emergency response vehicles.

We need to lead by example and so exemptions for council services will also be limited, for refuse collection vehicles for example.

In summary, Lambeth's low traffic neighbourhoods will exempt the following categories:

- Emergency services
- Rapid response healthcare providers (subject to consultation with the NHS)
- \*Blue Badge holders – individuals and organisations
- \*\*Taxis and fully accessible private hire vehicles
- Bin lorries

In addition to the above, there are a small number of cases where access to a property is restricted – for example where the property is within a 'modal filter' area – and exemptions will be allowed for vehicles

that otherwise would not have access. It is envisaged the exemption policy will come into effect for each LTN when/if it becomes permanent.

We are not proposing a general exemption for residents who live within LTNs. It is an important principle that no particular group should have privileged access to the public highway unless there is a compelling case that can be evidenced, such as in the case of some disabled people. Granting a general resident exemption would run contrary to this and be incompatible with the aims of the scheme. We are asking everyone to make a change to reduce their reliance on motor vehicles – for trips that start in our LTNs or anywhere else in the borough.

We are continually monitoring feedback we receive on our LTNs, including our equalities analysis, and we will review our approach to exemptions based on feedback received during public consultation.

There is much else we can do to improve people's experience of LTNs beyond exemptions. As well as proposing significant access and public realm improvements if the schemes are made permanent, we are also developing a programme of other supporting activity that will enable as many people as possible to benefit from the opportunity to walk, cycle, scoot or wheel on quieter, safer streets.

\*Based on analysis of what you have told us, we are proposing to invite individual BB holders living anywhere in Lambeth to nominate a particular modal filter from which they will be exempt. BB holders will be able to register up to two vehicles, whether their own, or the vehicle of someone who visits them on a regular basis.

\*\*On application, taxis and fully accessible private hire vehicles will be granted an exemption from bus gates within LTNs.