

# Battery-powered scooters, buggies, electric or manual wheelchairs

## Things you should know



**East Lothian**  
Council

This leaflet sets out East Lothian Council's responsibilities to people who use:

- Battery-powered scooters and buggies
- Electric or manual wheelchairs.

## Scooters and buggies

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Scooters and buggies are designed for use by people who have a reasonable degree of mobility. If you want a scooter or a buggy, you will have to buy it privately. Neither the NHS nor East Lothian Council supply scooters or buggies.

## Storage

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Because you have chosen to buy a scooter or buggy, you are responsible for its storage. **East Lothian Council has no responsibility to supply storage for your vehicle.**

So, before you choose to buy your vehicle, you will also have to consider where you are going to store it. If you want to build a shed or garage, you will need permission from your landlord if you are a tenant. You may need permission from the Council's Planning Department whether you are an owner-occupier or tenant.

**Remember, the arrangements for charging the batteries for your vehicle must meet health and safety requirements.** For further information, contact the supplier of your vehicle, your landlord and/or the Planning Department.

## Access ramps etc

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Again, because you have chosen to buy a scooter or buggy, East Lothian Council has no responsibility to provide access ramps, driveways, pathways or other aids to access.

Before you choose to buy your vehicle, you will also have to consider what you need to do about access. If you want to build ramps, pathways, driveways etc, you will need permission from your landlord if you are a tenant. You may need permission from the Council's Planning Department if you are an owner-occupier.

## Electric and manual wheelchairs

Some wheelchairs can be used indoors and outdoors, and others indoors. You can buy them privately, or the NHS may supply you with one as part of their support to you.

### **If your electric or manual wheelchair is supplied by the NHS**

If you have a wheelchair that has been supplied by the NHS, then you can request an assessment from the Council to put in a ramp. For more information on getting a ramp, contact one of our Occupational Therapy teams.

### **If you have bought your own electric or manual wheelchair**

If you are assessed by an Occupational Therapist and it is decided that you need a ramp, then the Council will provide one for you. If you do not have an assessment, or the Occupational Therapist does not recommend a ramp, you can choose to build a ramp at your own expense.

If you want to build ramps, pathways, driveways etc, you will need permission from your landlord if you are a tenant. You will need permission from the Council's Planning Department if you are an owner-occupier.

### **The Council is not responsible for providing storage.**

So, you will also have to consider where you are going to store it. If you want to build a shed or garage, you will need permission from your landlord if you are a tenant. You may need permission from the Council's Planning Department whether you are an owner-occupier or tenant.

### **Remember, the arrangements for charging the batteries for your vehicle must meet health and safety requirements.**

For further information, contact the supplier of your vehicle, your landlord and/or the Planning Department.



## Useful contacts



Occupational Therapy, Haddington – 01620 826 600

Occupational Therapy, Musselburgh – 0131 665 3711

Planning Department – 01620 827 216

## What happens if I am not happy with the Council's decision?



If you have been assessed by Occupational Therapy and you don't agree with their decision, you should talk to the person who assessed you or their line manager. Or you can write to:

The Service Manager

Community Care/Occupational Therapy

6-8 Lodge Street

Haddington EH41 3DX

Tel: 01620 826 600

You can get a **Feedback** form from your local council office.

This tells you about the Council's complaints procedures. It includes a form where you can make your comments. Post the form to the council. (You don't have to pay for stamps – just use the Freepost address on the leaflet.) Or, you can phone a Complaints Officer to chat things through on 01620 827497.

You can also take your complaint to the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman, although it is usually better to use the Council's complaints procedure first. You should contact the Ombudsman within 12 months of the date that you first noticed the problem you are complaining about. In special circumstances, the Ombudsman may be prepared to deal with matters that have gone on longer than 12 months. Please write to:

The Scottish Public Services Ombudsman

23 Walker Street

Edinburgh

EH3 7HX

Tel: 0870 011 5378

Fax: 0870 011 5379

e-mail: [enquiries@scottishombudsman.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@scottishombudsman.org.uk)

website: [www.scottishombudsman.org.uk](http://www.scottishombudsman.org.uk)



Versions of this leaflet are available on request on audiotape, in Braille, large print or your own language.

 Phone 01620 827199