

Statement of Reason

Proposal

The proposals are to introduce and to revoke disabled parking bays as follows:

- a) Introduce new disabled bays at the locations listed in Table 1 of this Notice.

Location	Ward
No.32 Beach Avenue	Chalkwell
Arnold Avenue, adjacent to No.7 Manor Court, Woodgrange Drive	Kursaal
No.120 Leighton Avenue	Leigh
No.36 Oakleigh Park Drive	Leigh
No.80 Marguerite Drive	Leigh
No.41 Queens Road	Milton
No.65 Gordon Road	Milton
Elm Road, adjacent to No.115d Wakering Avenue	Shoeburyness
No.152/No.154 Newington Avenue	Southchurch
No.98 Central Avenue	St Lukes
No.81 Stornoway Road	St Lukes
No.225 South Avenue	St Lukes
No.140 St Lukes Road	St Lukes
No.14 Cliff Avenue	Victoria
No.28 Blyth Avenue	West Shoebury
No.105 Inverness Avenue	Westborough
No.106 Glenwood Avenue	Westborough

- b) Revoke the existing disabled bays at the locations listed in Table 2 of this Notice.

Location	Ward
No.93 Oban Road	Kursaal
No.90 St George's Park Avenue	Westborough

Reasons

There are currently 2 types of disabled parking bays across the city. These are:

- a) Enforceable bays, which are formalised parking spaces for blue badge holders only. These bays are supported by a TRO, enabling Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) to be issued for misuse.
- b) Advisory bays, which are informal courtesy bays intended for use by specific residents with a blue badge. These bays are not legally enforceable but rely on other motorists to show consideration by not parking there.

Over time, the presence of both types of bays has led to public uncertainty about who may legally use them and whether enforcement action applies. This has occasionally resulted in unintended inconvenience in certain cases.

The Council's 2024 - 2028 Corporate Plan includes a priority to be "a transforming Council delivering efficient, cost-effective services". To support this, a formalised policy was developed to improve support for blue badge holders who require accessible parking near their homes, this policy can be found using the following link: <https://>

www.southend.gov.uk/residents-parking-permits-1/residential-disabled-parking-bay-rdpb-policy/3.

The RDPB Policy introduces twice a year application windows, during which residents can submit requests for new disabled bays. Successful applications result in a bay being installed and formalised through a TRO amendment to ensure it is enforceable.

In parallel, any existing enforceable bays that have been confirmed as no longer required will be revoked as part of this amendment process, also in batches of 25, twice a year.

The amendments proposed, are the first batch of disabled bay applications being progressed under the new Policy.

Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984

The sections which the City Council are using for the implementation of the proposed scheme as above are 1, 2, 4 and 122. The grounds that encompassed the reason for these proposals in Section 1 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 are:

- (a) for avoiding danger to persons or other traffic using the road or any other road or for preventing the likelihood of any such danger arising, or
- (b) for preventing damage to the road or to any building on or near the road, or
- (c) for preserving or improving the amenities of the area through which the road runs.

In addition, thorough consideration was given to the factors set out in Section 122 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 in proposing this scheme.

Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016

All of the associated signing and lining will be in accordance with Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions (TSRGD) 2016.

Equality Act 2010

Thorough consideration was given to the equalities duty of Southend-on-Sea City Council under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010.