

Statement of Reasons

Proposals

On street:

Southend-on-Sea City Council intend to make the following amendments to on street provisions:

- Update the provisions of Electric Vehicle Charging Parking Places to prevent non-electric vehicles and electric vehicles which are not connected to and actively charging from the charging point from parking in those existing parking places.
- Amend the terms and conditions of all Permits to remove eligibility for refunds.
- Re-designation of payment parking tariff zones, and associated charges where applicable.
- Updates to the terms and conditions to ensure current tariffs align with operational hours and zones for shared use payment parking places in permit parking zones where applicable.
- Removal of the existing Resident Permit – Electric Vehicle.
- Amend the Resident Concessionary Permit by removing the single permit option and splitting into 4 different zones aligned to the relevant tariff zones and implementing a new charging structure.
- Amend the terms and conditions of the Hotels and guesthouses discount rate to apply in Zones 1 and 2 only.
- Change the name of the Educational Permit to Educational and Employment Permit, all other provisions remain unaffected.
- Introduction of Visitor Vouchers (Virtual/Electronic Book of 20) with a 4 hour maximum stay.
- Update the charge for amendments to Permits from £10 per change to no charge for 1st change and £10 for subsequent changes (per change) which resets each time the Permit is renewed.
- Replace the Limited Waiting Parking bay (9am-6pm, 3hrs no return within 4hrs) on Belton Gardens, south side of the road, with a Payment Parking bay (Zone 3A, 8am-6pm).

Off street:

Southend-on-Sea City Council intend to make the following amendments to off street provisions:

- Update the provisions of Electric Vehicle Charging Parking Places to prevent non-electric vehicles and electric vehicles which are not connected to and actively charging from the charging point from parking in those parking places.
- Amend the terms and conditions of Seafront Permits, Season Tickets and Southend Passes to remove eligibility for refunds.
- Re-designation of parking zones for Season Tickets and Seafront Permits, and associated charges.
- Amend the terms and conditions of Coach Parking to include VAT where applicable.
- Amend the Resident Concessionary Permit by removing the single permit option and splitting into 4 different zones aligned to the relevant tariff zones and implementing a new charging structure.
- Amend the terms and conditions of the Hotels and guesthouses discount rate to apply in Zones 1 and 2 only.
- Change the name of the Educational Permit to Educational and Employment Permit, all other provisions remain unaffected.
- Update the charge for amendments to Permits and Season Tickets from £10 per change to no charge for 1st change and £10 for subsequent changes (per change) which resets each time the Permit is renewed.

- Update the terms and conditions of free festive parking to only apply in selected Council car parks on selected Sundays in December.
- Change the location of Small Business Day parking from Zones 2 and 3 car parks to selected Council car parks on the first Saturday in December.
- Introduce payment parking in Civic Underground Car Park on weekends and Public/Bank Holidays with Zone 3a charges.
- Introduce payment parking in Beecroft Lower Car Park on Monday to Sunday between 8am and 6pm with Zone 3b charges.
- Introduce a new permit for Beecroft Lower Car Park.

Alongside the proposals listed above, changes will also be made to some on-street and off-street charges. These changes will be introduced by varying the charges currently in place. Full details can be found in the Public Notice included within the deposit document.

Reasons

The Council regularly reviews its parking fees and charges, in conjunction with monitoring transactional and financial income data.

The primary reason for charging for parking is to effectively manage kerb-side space and demand, in both central on-street locations and car parks as well as residential and business areas. Effective parking management will aim to support wider transport policy objectives, ensuring that on and off-street space is used more effectively.

Effective management of parking provision is recognised as making a significant contribution to reducing congestion, whilst supporting access to residents, visitors and businesses.

Parking charges need to be set at a level which facilitates local use and demand and at a level which will ensure the effective management of parking provision by prioritising access to the local community and promoting a sustainable and vibrant local economy. These proposals are expected to further encourage footfall and visitors to the city beyond existing levels, whilst ensuring charges are applied consistently and fairly across Southend, as the proposals may also help customers make more informed decisions about where, when and for how long they park.

These proposals include introducing payment parking in the Civic Underground Car Park and Beecroft Lower Car Park to accommodate parking needs within the City, the redesignation of tariff zones for Season Tickets and Seafront Permits to simplify the charging levels along with other minor changes to the on and off-street orders.

This also includes changes to the provisions of electric vehicle charging places to ensure electric vehicles have maintained access to recharging points, encouraging more sustainable transport options relating to climate change and net zero.

Additional reasons include;

- Supports the council's network management duty under the Traffic Management Act 2004.
- To cover the ongoing expenses incurred in the effective management of parking, including monitoring and enforcement of parking restrictions and the operation and maintenance of associated assets and facilities within the City.
- To ensure that the Council continues to effectively manage the demand for parking within the City to ensure that residents, businesses, and visitors receive the best parking service from the Council.
- Account for inflationary increases.

Any income generated from on-street parking charges will be utilised to effectively manage parking in the first instance. Any surplus generated by the operation of the on-street parking service is

used for other improvements in traffic management, highway improvements, environmental improvements, and subsidised and concessionary transport. This is in accordance with the current legislation and associated regulations.

Legislation

Charges for on-street parking can be varied by Notice under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, Section 46a and compliance with Part V, Section 25 of The Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996. Due to additional changes being required for both on and off-street provisions, as set out in the proposal section of this document, an amendment Order for on-street, and separate amendment Order for off-street, will cover all changes proposed, including the increased charges element.

The specific grounds with which the Council are using for the implementation of the proposals are encompassed in Sections 1, 2, 4, 32, 35, 44, 45, 46, 46A, and 124(1)(d) and Part IV of Schedule 9 to the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

In considering whether to make this Order, Southend-on-Sea City Council has had regard to all relevant matters including its responsibility pursuant to Section 122 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended), to secure so far as practicable the expeditious, convenient and safe movement of vehicular and other traffic (including pedestrians), and the provision of suitable and adequate parking facilities on and off the highway having regard to the matters specified in Section 122(2).

Equality Act 2010, Section 149

Consideration has been given to the equalities duty of Southend-on-Sea City Council.