

## Statement of Reason

### Proposal

The proposals are:

- (i) To introduce a Staff Permit (Priority 1A) for employees with limited mobility approved by the Council, permitting vehicles displaying a valid permit to use designated Priority 1A Staff Permit bay on Civic Centre Service Road.
- (ii) To amend the Permit Parking Only bay on Tickfield Avenue to Council Fleet permit holders only.
- (iii) introduce new disabled parking bays at the locations listed in Table 1 of this Notice.

**Table 1**

| Ref      | Location                                      | Ward          |
|----------|-----------------------------------------------|---------------|
| PTO1350  | Outside 40 Treecot Drive                      | Blenheim Park |
| PTO1351  | Outside 28 Grove Hill                         | Eastwood Park |
| PTO1352a | Leigh Hall Road Adjacent to 93a Broadway      | Leigh         |
| PTO1352b | Oakleigh Park Drive Adjacent to 124 Pall Mall | Leigh         |
| PTO1352c | Outside 21-23 Northview Drive                 | Leigh         |
| PTO1352d | Outside 117-119 Leigh Hall Road               | Leigh         |
| PTO1353  | Outside 31–33 Gordon Road                     | Milton        |
| PTO1354  | Opposite 101 Carlton Avenue                   | Prittlewell   |
| PTO1355b | Outside 37 Dalmatia Road                      | Southchurch   |
| PTO1355c | Outside 8-10 Dalmatia Road                    | Southchurch   |
| PTO1356a | Outside 130 Central Avenue                    | St Lukes      |
| PTO1356b | Outside 353 North Avenue                      | St Lukes      |
| PTO1357  | Outside 47 Colchester Road                    | Victoria      |
| PTO1358  | Medway Crescent Adjacent to 1470a London Road | West Leigh    |
| PTO1359  | Stour Close Adjacent to 12 Seaview Road       | West Shoebury |
| PTO1360a | Outside 14a Hainault Avenue                   | Westborough   |
| PTO1360b | Outside 16 Hainault Avenue                    | Westborough   |
| PTO1360c | Outside 180 Hildaville Drive                  | Westborough   |
| PTO1360d | Outside 28A Inverness Avenue                  | Westborough   |
| PTO1360e | Outside 48 Glenwood Avenue                    | Westborough   |
| PTO1360f | Outside 50 Glenwood 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.