


# Public Document Pack


## Southend-on-Sea City Council

Executive Director (Strategy & Change):

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11 November 2024

Dear Councillor

### **PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - MONDAY, 28TH OCTOBER, 2024**

Please find attached the questions from members of the public, together with the respective responses from the relevant Cabinet Member(s), at the meeting of the Place Scrutiny Committee held on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2024..

**Tim Row**

Principal Democratic Services Officer

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**SOUTHEND ON SEA CITY COUNCIL**  
**PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 28<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2024**  
**QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

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**QUESTION 1 from Ms Kay Mitchell to Councillor Hyde (Cabinet Member for Climate, Environment & Waste)**

An expectation has been planted with Southend residents through press releases by this administration, of 5 bulky waste collections per year. If this is indeed included in the new arrangements, it would be welcomed by many.

I am concerned however how poorly managed properties such as many HMO's will be considered, some have a high turnaround of residents and regular bulky waste such as mattresses dumped on footways.

Could the portfolio holder confirm if each new tenant will have 5 bulky waste collections a year or if only the property as a whole will be entitled to this, and how will they ensure landlords and agents are managing bulky waste responsibly.?

**RESPONSE:**

**Thank you for your question.**

**This administration has been clear about its intention to bring in a free bulky waste service and the practicalities and financial considerations associated with this intention are being developed. I am working with officers in the waste management and regulatory services teams to ensure that people living in HMOs have proportionate access to city's bulky waste collection provision.**

<b><u>Word count</u></b>	<b><u>63</u></b>
<b><u>Executive Director sign off</u></b>	<b><u>AR</u></b>
<b><u>Cabinet Member sign off</u></b>	<b><u>LH</u></b>

**QUESTION 2 from Mr Whitby to Councillor Hyde (Cabinet Member for Climate, Environment & Waste)**

The Council and Veolia sent residents a letter saying errors in putting out refuse could result in a fine of £80. Given that the chance of error between putting rubbish in an opaque black bin bag is less than in a see-through recycling bag. If I wish to

reduce my chance of making an error and getting a fine, should I not just put everything in a black bin bag? I would like an answer of yes, or no - as more words would simply be obfuscation.

**RESPONSE:**

No.

Waste collection is one of Southend-on-Sea City Council's statutory duties through which we can stipulate how and when waste is collected. Residents should ensure that their waste and recycling is presented for 7am on the scheduled day of collection in the appropriately coloured sack/container. Waste that is incorrectly presented away from the scheduled day of collection negatively impacts the environment. If householders that present their waste incorrectly are identified, they will be contacted advising them of this as well as the correct procedures to follow prior to enforcement action being taken.

Details on scheduled days of collection for the city are available on the council's website.

<u>Word count</u>	<u>107</u>
<u>Executive Director sign off</u>	<u>AR</u>
<u>Cabinet Member sign off</u>	<u>LH</u>

**QUESTION 3 from Mr David Webb to Councillor Hyde (Cabinet Member for Climate, Environment & Waste)**

The Council is using a set criteria to decide which residents get wheelie bins.

Can you list the set criteria as to who gets wheelie bins

**RESPONSE:**

The Cabinet considered and adopted this issue at its meeting on 30 January 2024 where the 'Wheeled Bin Suitability Criteria' was agreed. The document is a public document which is available on the Council's website:

[Issue - items at meetings - New Waste Collection Services Policies \(Wheeled Bin Suitability Criteria\)](#)

<u>Word count</u>	<u>50</u>
<u>Executive Director sign off</u>	<u>AR</u>
<u>Cabinet Member sign off</u>	<u>LH</u>

**QUESTION 4 from Ms Tricia Cowdrey to Councillor Paul Collins (Cabinet Member for Finance, Assets and Resources)**

The Cabinet Member for Finance attended the recent Southend Area Buser User Group AGM. He heard about residents in the east of Shoeburyness ward where bus services have been reduced year on year so there is now is one bus, an already unreliable number 9, every 30-40 minutes and no direct link to the hospital, contrary to the Southend bus service improvement plan which aims for 95% of residents to have a bus service running every 15 minutes within 400 meters of their homes. This will certainly not be achieved in the east of Shoeburyness where we have high numbers of older and disabled residents who could become socially isolated. Can the Cabinet member please ensure that the transport needs of residents east of ASDA in Shoeburyness are taken into consideration at all relevant meetings and that, should further government funding become available, this are becomes one of your priorities?

**RESPONSE:**

**The Bus Service Improvement Plan marks a series of medium-term goals and it is understood that the operators may reduce services on the way to the achievement of these goals.**

**The Council recognises that there are some areas of the City where the quantity of bus service provision has declined significantly over the last 10 years, in some cases to no provision, and that there are some areas of the City where there are gaps in service provision such that most residents are over 400 metres away from a frequent bus service. In some cases these areas overlap.**

**The Council is in the process of identifying these combined areas and recognises that Shoeburyness and the area east of The Renown in North Shoebury would likely fall into this combined category. It is planning to follow a three-pronged approach with the bus operators through the Southend Local Bus Board, as below, in addressing the challenge of improving bus services in such areas:**

- Using the identification of such areas to help guide the Council on where to focus resources should funding become available
- Monitoring reliability specifically for the current bus services in these areas. It is recognised that unreliability helps fuel a vicious circle, which leads to patronage reductions, which leads to service reductions.
- Considering improvements that might be made by operators to improve reliability in these areas and / or to change service design such that these areas become less prone to unreliability

<b><u>Word count</u></b>	<b><u>242</u></b>
<b><u>Executive Director sign off</u></b>	<b><u>AR</u></b>
<b><u>Cabinet Member sign off</u></b>	<b><u>PC</u></b>