

# **Southend-on-Sea City Council**

## **Director of Highways, Transportation & Waste**

### **Overview of service area**

Southend-on-Sea City Council is a unitary authority responsible for delivering vital public facing services to its 182,733 residents and over 5,500 businesses. As a popular seaside destination the city is visited by over 7 million visitors each year which is a vital economic driver to the city's economy. The city is densely populated and has a large variance in living standards, ranging from large detached sea front properties to areas of significant social deprivation.

The city benefits from a diverse transport infrastructure, which includes an extensive bus network, nine train stations and London Southend Airport serving international routes.

Our highways assets, and the services we commission and provide to maintain and improve them, are fundamental to the lives of all Southenders, businesses and visitors. The city has a road network covering 16 square miles including two major trunk roads, the A127 and A13. We also have a stunning 7 miles coastline. The service also delivers strategic and operational parking management.

Our extensive waste management service is vital to the city's residents. It is spearheading the drive to reduce the amount of waste created and then ensuring that any waste is reused or recycled wherever possible. This not only is key to protecting the environment and climate but also to ensuring the council's budget achieves maximum value. We collect c.78,000 tonnes of waste pa from over 82,000 households on a weekly basis . The current recycling rate is 43% which is something that the council is committed to significantly increasing.

The services within the portfolio are important political priorities and are key to the Southend 2050 Ambition and the 2030 Net Zero Carbon pledge.

### **Key Accountabilities**

- Provide leadership for a large and diverse staff group, building a cohesive, high performing team able to deliver on critical Council priorities
- Provide clear direction on service evolution and transformation to ensure that the required outcomes from the services are achieved in the most efficient and cost-effective manner

- Ensure all services are customer focused and have member and supplier relationships as a key building block of the services
- The postholder will be the council's chief advisor on matters relating to city highways network, transport strategy and waste management
- Working with Members, staff, stakeholders and suppliers, ensure that the services within the portfolio contribute to the delivery of the council's objectives, both in the short to medium term and in the context of the Southend 2050 Ambition and the Green City Action Plan
- Lead and direct the services within the portfolio to maintain the public highways in Southend-on-Sea, directing improvements in terms of safety, condition, operation and congestion reduction to ensure safe and sustainable highways usage and improvements to air quality.
- Lead the planning process for future transport requirements including identifying, designing and constructing new highways
- Provide leadership and management support for the parking service
- Provide programme leadership for the delivery of major improvements and infrastructure schemes
- Lead the waste management service to meet the needs of the public but also to protect the environment and the climate
- Represent the city and council on highways, transport and waste related matters at regional forums including Transport East and Association of South Essex Local Authorities
- Lead the development and delivery of effective commercial partnerships to secure effective delivery of services in the portfolio, including being the lead officer with responsibility for the relationship with the major suppliers (ie. highways term contractor and waste management contractor)
- Building a collaborative, one-council culture that supports career development and recognises the value our loyal, expert workforce bring to the city.
- As part of the departmental management team, reporting to and deputising as required for the Executive Director and contributing to the leadership, development and evolution of the service, the council and the city.

## **Main areas of functional responsibility**

Strategic leadership of the delivery and continuous improvement of the highways, transportation and waste management portfolio of services, including:

- Ensuring that the operation of the highway network meets the expectations and requirements of its users as well as the Council's members
- Delivery of the infrastructure Projects: Highways, Public Realm, Bridge Maintenance, Parking, Coastal Defence, Flood Risk, Traffic Signals, Street Lights, to achieve the Council's stated objectives.

- Strategic Transport Policy: Local Transport Plan, Shoreline Strategy, Public Transport Liaison, Southend 2050, Transport East, ASELA to enable a collaborative and clear strategic direction
- Implementing a waste management hierarchy approach that aims to limit the generation of waste right through to reuse and recycling, with the ultimate aim of eradicating 'residual' waste
- Lead the procurement of the new waste collection contract, ensuring it meets the ever-changing needs of; its customers, legislation and the environment
- Ensuring all of our decisions/actions are financially sustainable and have the customer, the environment and the climate at the very centre of them
- The postholder will be responsible for 107 (FTE) Council staff and an annual revenue budget in excess of £25m. The sizable capital improvement programme for the next 3 years is set at slightly over £62m. The services generate income exceeding £11m pa.