

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE: **Environment, Planning and Infrastructure**

DATE: **15th March 2011**

DIRECTOR: **Gordon McIntosh**

TITLE OF REPORT: **Review of Charges for Street Occupations**

REPORT NUMBER: **EPI/11/103**

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to consider a review of existing Charges for Street Occupations and to consider the implementation of additional charges for driveway applications and traffic signal management requests.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Committee:

1. approve the revised charges and instruct that these be applied from 1st May 2011
2. approve the charges for driveway applications and traffic signal management requests and instruct that these be applied from 1st May 2011.
3. instruct officers to review the charges annually.
4. refer this report to Finance and Resources Committee meeting of 21 April, 2011 for ratification of the revised charges

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The revised charges will generate revenue income that will meet staff costs and sustain service provision.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

There is a risk that costs associated with staff and service provision would impact on current revenue budgets should the revised charges not be introduced.

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

In accordance with statutory obligations Aberdeen City Council as the Local Roads Authority has a responsibility to regulate and manage street occupations to ensure that essential works have a minimal impact on the road network and that the infrastructure is protected in line with specification and guidelines. Considerable officer time is dedicated to the management of the road network and the consideration of applications for various road work operations and street occupations.

A scale of charges for this service was previously set by the former Resources Management Committee in April 2005 but has not been reviewed since that date. Given the timescale since the current charges were approved it is now considered appropriate to review the charges in connection with street occupations and its associated activities.

The review of charges has included a comparison with those set by other local authorities. However the charges set by other authorities have been noted to have significant variance for similar operations and are not thought to be suitable to be used for the bench marking of charges.

Officers have reviewed the charging regime and have prepared a revised scale of charges which are detailed in Appendix A of this report. The revised charges have been generally increased in line with inflation. However where charges are applied as a result of illegal operations or to reduce occupation periods these charges have been significantly increased to encourage contractors, skip operators etc to comply with regulatory requirements and to minimise disruption to all road users.

Whilst carrying out the review it was noted that some applications by contractors and third parties did not currently attract a charge and that officer time was required to assess, manage and approve these applications.

At present driveway applications that do not require Planning permission, but are subject to Roads Consent, are processed by officers without charge. Given the work required by officers to process and consider applications it is felt appropriate that a standard charge should be applied to driveway applications that are not subject to planning permission and that a charge be set at £60 to cover the officers work.

Applications to switch off and cover/ bag traffic signals to facilitate roadwork operations are frequently received and officers are required to respond to these requests and organise the services of the term traffic signals maintenance contractor. It is felt that it would be appropriate to recover the administration charges associated with the processing of such requests and that a charge of £50 be applied over and above the traffic signal maintenance contractors fee which is charged at cost.

For the execution of major building projects, particularly within the city centre, it is occasionally necessary for contractors to occupy the public road to accommodate site operations, material stores and offices. This has most recently been seen during hotel construction operations on Justice Mill Lane and St Andrews Street where extended

occupations were required. The matter of charges for an occupation of this nature is to be the subject of a separate review and will be reported to the meeting of the Finance and Resources committee on the 21st April 2011. At present charges for occupation of the carriageway related too the above are applied and it is recommended that this continues as at present until a further detailed review and committee decision is taken.

It is recommended that the charges detailed within Appendix A be adopted and come into operation on the 1st May 2011 and that the charges be reviewed annually.

6. IMPACT

This subject of this report provides support to the economic and environmental well being of the city and promotes the safety and management of the local road infrastructure. The report supports service delivery and maintains positive operational outcomes to meet statutory obligations.

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

N/A

8. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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Appendix A - Revision of charges from 1st April 2011

Temporary Traffic Restrictions

	Charge from 01/05/2005	Charge from 01/05/2011
For continuous period of up to 21 days: Application received 28 days or more prior to Order coming in to effect	£585	£750
Application received less than 28 days prior to Order coming in to effect	£795	£1000
For continuous period over 21 days but not more than 6 months: Application received 28 days or more prior to Order coming in to effect	£1060	£1500
Application received less than 28 days prior to Order coming in to effect	£1220	£1750
For repeat posting of weekly or monthly closure notices	£106	£150

28 days is normally required to process an application for a temporary traffic order, allowing for workload. While an application can be processed in less time, more expensive media will be required for the advertising. This additional cost is reflected in the new charges made to applicants.

Temporary/Permanent Industrial Access

	Charge from 01/05/2005	Charge from 01/05/2011
Charge for visiting site, processing application and granting permission	£320	£400
Surcharge for illegal occupation	£320	£400

Consent for Excavating in the Road under Section 56 or 61 of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984

	Charge from 01/05/2005	Charge from 01/05/2011
Excavation not involving installation of private apparatus	£320	£400
Surcharge for illegal occupation	£320	£400

Consent for Excavating in a Road under Section 109 of the New Roads & Street Works Act 1991 (NRSWA)

	Charge from 01/05/2005	Charge from 01/05/2011
Charge for initial application and permission for works which are only one inspection unit	£320	£400
Surcharge for illegal occupation	£320	£400
Additional charge for works over one inspection unit	£53 per additional unit	£65
Annual charge for maintaining records for Symology notification	£96	£150

These charges contribute towards the Council's expenditure on the Symology system, which is employed to notify Statutory Undertakers of work in accordance with NRSWA. Applicants will also be required to meet Inspection charges in accordance with regulations issued under NRSWA.

Street Occupations

	Charge from 01/05/2005	Charge from 01/04/2011
Scaffold/Hoarding permits:- For a continuous period of up to 1 month (Under 25 metres in length):	£80	£100
(25 metres or over)	£106	£150
For each subsequent month of original application (Under 25 metres in length):	£53	£65
(25 metres or over)		£100
For subsequent extension for up to 1 month (Under 25 metres in length):	£75	£90
(25 metres or over)	£106	£125
Surcharge for Illegal occupation of the road.		£200
Crane, Hydraulic Platform Permits:- Charge for granting permission per day	£53	£65
Surcharge for illegal occupation of the road. Per day	£53	£65
Temporary Traffic Lights:- For a continuous period of up to one week, charge for granting permission	£53	£75
Surcharge for illegal occupation of the road.	£53	£400

Skips

	Charge from 01/05/2005	Charge from 01/04/2011
For continuous period of 7 days	£22	£30
Surcharge for illegal occupation of the road	£22	£100
Additional daily charge for a skip sited within a Pay and Display area.	£7	£30 for zones ABCEF & G £15 for all other zones
Surcharge as part of illegal occupation of the road.	£7	£100

The surcharge is payable where a skip is placed without a permit being first obtained.

The daily charge for Pay and Display contribute to the loss of revenue from parking charges and the new amount equates to standard charges made by the Council for daily occupation of a Pay and Display space for the purposes of loading etc.

New Charges proposed

Driveway

Driveway application out with planning application process	£60
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Switching Off/ Bagging of Traffic Signals

Processing of Bagging Signals	£50
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A discount of 30% will be applied should the penalty notice be paid with 30 days of issue.