

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Council
DATE	29 June 2011
DIRECTOR	Director of Corporate Governance
TITLE OF REPORT	The Aberdeen City Council (Off-Street Car Parks) Order 2011
REPORT NUMBER:	CG//11/077

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report confirms that no objections (to date) have been received in light of the statutory advertisement of the proposed removal of the recently-introduced overnight charge of £1.50 in off-street car parks, and that it be replaced by extended operational hours in the most straightforward sense (i.e. 8.00am until 10.00pm instead of 8.00am until 8.00pm). The statutory notice is attached as an appendix.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that Council resolve to make The Aberdeen City Council (Off-Street Car Parks) Order 2011 as contained in the Appendix to this report.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The revised proposals will not reduce the revenue generated by the current charge, and there will be minimal costs associated with the promotion of a new traffic regulation order and the replacement of the tariff plates on the parking machines.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

None.

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

Since the overnight charge was introduced in September, 2010 a number of issues have been experienced. Complaints had been received from members of the public who had had difficulties paying the overnight charge, the problems occurred particularly in the evenings during the transition between the day rate and night rate at 2000 hours.

The complaints had been about the amount of text contained in the operating instructions, the size of the text and the difficulties understanding the instructions.

The operating instructions on the parking ticket machines had been reviewed and subsequently revised, however the detail which must be included was perceived by the general public as complicated and lengthy. Complaints had also been received regarding the way in which the overnight charge was applied, where drivers must pay the £1.50 for parking at any time between 2000 – 0800 hours. This meant that tickets bought just before 2000 hours would expire at 2000 unless the overnight charge was paid, similarly night tickets bought just before 0800 hours would expire at 0800 hours unless additional daytime hours were purchased. The result was disproportionately high parking rates for short periods of parking around the changeover between day rate and night rate or vice versa.

Ticketing information indicated that only 10% of overnight tickets were purchased after 2200 hours, therefore replacing the complicated overnight charge of £1.50 with two hours of charging at the newly approved rate of £1 per hour, would offset the removal of the overnight charge.

On consideration of the above, the Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure Committee at its meeting on 15 March, 2011 recommended that the recently-introduced overnight charge of £1.50 in off-street car parks be removed, and that it be replaced by extended operational hours in the most straightforward sense (ie 8.00am until 10.00pm instead of 8.00am until 8.00pm, and requested that officers commence the traffic order process to introduce this.

The statutory advertisement of the above traffic order which provides for revised operational hours for charging in Off-Street car parks has now been undertaken and to date no statutory objections have been received. The matter is a straightforward one and there are no legal or procedural issues of note. Therefore, it is recommended that the order be approved and made as envisaged.

6. IMPACT

The changes provided for by these orders have merits from some points of view and disadvantages from others.

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers were used as a point of departure for writing this report (other than the statutory objection itself).

8. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

THE ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL (OFF-STREET CAR PARKS) ORDER 2011

Aberdeen City Council proposes to make "The Aberdeen City Council (Off-Street Car Parks) Order 2011" in terms of its powers under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

The effect of the order is to restate all the Council's existing off-street car parking arrangements and to make changes to those arrangements.

The changes are that (1) the existing overnight charge of £1.50 (which comes into effect at 8.00pm when the normal daytime tariff ends) is being dropped, but (2) the daytime tariff will now apply until 10.00pm.

After 10.00pm vehicles can be left free of charge until the beginning of the next day's daytime tariff.

Also, any period of time paid for on any day shall be taken to continue into (and expire) during the *next* day's charging hours wherever it has not already expired during the charging hours on the day it was purchased. This restores the old arrangement where "unused residue" from one day could be carried forward into the next, something which (at present) is conditional upon payment of the overnight fee.

A final consequence of these changes is that, in the Council's long-stay car parks, an extra tariff level (for parking for 10-14 hours) will be established, at a cost of £14.00.

The schedule below presents the new charging arrangements at a glance.

The draft order, together with an accompanying statement of the Council's reasons for promoting it, may be examined during normal office hours on weekdays between 25 May, 2011, and 14 June, 2011, in the offices of the roads officials in the Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure department, at 74-76 Spring Garden, Aberdeen.

It is recommended that anyone visiting Spring Garden to view any of the documents should make an appointment to do so, in order that a member of staff can be present to offer an explanation if necessary. Anyone unable to visit Spring Garden can telephone (01224 538069) to speak to one of the officials.

Anyone wishing to object to the proposed order should send details of the grounds for objection in writing to the undersigned during the statutory objection period which also runs from 25 May, 2011 until 14 June, 2011, inclusively.

Any person who submits an objection should note that the Committee agendas are public documents, available in libraries and also distributed to the press. Objectors' names and addresses, perhaps with summaries of their observations, may be able to be found in these agendas. Also, although the original letters of objection will not ordinarily be copied as part of the agenda, they are available for inspection by Councillors and are essentially in the public domain. To that extent, however, they are redacted, with e-mail addresses, telephone numbers and signatures blanked out.

Jane MacEachran
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Aberdeen City Council, Town House, ABERDEEN

SCHEDULE

<u>Off Street Car Park</u>	<u>Period</u>	<u>Charges (£)</u>
Gallowgate Summer Street East North Street Golden Square Jack's Brae St. Nicholas House car parks (Saturdays and Sundays only)	up to 2 hours	2.00
	2 to 3 hours	3.00
	3 to 4 hours	4.00
	(maximum stay - 4 hours)	
Chapel Street Multi-Storey Denburn Multi-Storey West North Street Multi-Storey Virginia Street	up to 2 hours	2.00
	2 to 3 hours	3.00
	3 to 4 hours	4.00
	4 to 5 hours	5.00
	5 to 6 hours	6.00
	6 to 10 hours	10.00
	10 to 14 hours	14.00
(maximum stay - 14 hours)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Denburn Multi-Storey only - special additional short-stay option of £1.00 for <u>one</u> hour 		
Broomhill Road and the car park adjacent to Ferryhill Library	up to 1 hour	1.00
	1 to 2 hours	2.00