

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure
DATE	13th September 2011
CORPORATE DIRECTOR	Gordon McIntosh
TITLE OF REPORT	Residential Use of Denburn Car Park Overnight
REPORT NUMBER	EPI/11/212

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report provides a review of the use of the Denburn car park and opportunity for overnight parking by local residents who have on street parking permits.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee approve the use of the lower section of the Denburn car park between the hours of 1800 and 0800 for residents who have an on street parking permit.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There will be costs for the erection of the necessary signing and painting of the lower car park if considered necessary. The estimated cost of the additional signing is in the order of £300.

4. SERVICE & COMMUNITY IMPACT

- 4.1 The content of the report meets with the local Community Plan objectives to continually improve road safety and maximize accessibility.
- 4.2 The provision of additional overnight residents parking will improve accessibility and local facilities

5 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

None

6 REPORT

Main Considerations

- 6.1 Reference is made to the minute of the Committee of the 15th March 2011 wherein the committee requested that a report on the use of the lower section of the Denburn for residents during the off peak periods of 1800 to 0800 be presented to a future committee.

Background

- 6.2 At its meeting of the 15th March 2011 the committee approved the use of the Mearns Street, Chapel Street and West North Street car parks by residents who have on street parking permits during the off peak hours of 1800 to 0800.
- 6.3 The recommendation of the report to the Controlled Parking Working Group did not support the use of the Denburn car park due to the demands placed on it by the city centre commercial uses and the need to maintain a level of car parking to sustain a vibrant local economy.

Review of Car Park Use

- 6.4 The use of the car park has been closely monitored and has shown a peak occupancy of approximately 250 vehicles when events within the city centre are being held and closely mirrors the uses of His Majesty's Theatre (HMT).
- 6.5 The Denburn car park has a capacity of 325 spaces and operating with a minimum threshold capacity of 75 parking spaces at peak times. The use of the car park diminishes dramatically after 2230 hours and is relatively empty overnight. The occupancy of the car park was noted to be low, approximately 80 cars, in the evenings when there was a limited amount of city centre events or performances at HMT.
- 6.6 For some time now officers have had concerns over the unsocial behaviour that is experienced in the lower part of the car park with graffiti and vandalism an occasional occurrence. The level of unsocial behaviour is thought to be related to the lack of use of the lower section.
- 6.7 Following further consideration it is felt that the use of the lower section by residents through the night period would add a presence and use to this area, and would go some way to dissuade the current levels of unsocial behaviour.
- 6.8 There remains a concern that the use of the lower floor by residents in the evenings and overnight could, to some degree, impact on the availability of parking for activities within the city centre. However, it is felt this would be offset by the presence and movement of vehicles within the lower level throughout the night time period and discourage unsocial uses.

7. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

Andrew Smith
Road Safety and Traffic Management Team
andrews@aberdeencity.gov.uk
(01224) 538056

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Minutes of the EP&I meeting of the 15th March 2011
Report to Controlled Parking Working Group of 24th February 2011