

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE: **Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure**

DATE: **31st May 2012**

DIRECTOR: **Gordon McIntosh**

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

REPORT NUMBER: **EPI/12/094**

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to consider a review of existing Charges for Street Occupations covered by the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 and the New Roads and Street works Act 1991.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Committee:

1. Approve the charges detailed in the report and that these be applied from the 1st July 2012

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

None

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 Committee in May 2011 and is due for review in 2012.

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 to comply with regulatory requirements and to minimise disruption to all road users.

Road users and the wider public face increasing safety problems and delays due to mobile platforms (also known as cherry pickers). The danger to the public is greater than that of mobile scaffolds due to the need for road traffic management and therefore a set of charges is proposed to reflect this.

Officers are regularly made aware of illegal activities using such equipment and at present find the level of the surcharge is insufficient to act as a deterrent and that the new charge suggested should reflect the severity of the unlawful activity. It is clear from experience of charging where the introduction of high surcharges exist, for example skip permits, very few unauthorised occupations have occurred. It is felt that the current level of surcharge should be significantly increased to reflect the severity of the activity in relation to the risk to the public and the road user in the hope that it acts as a deterrent to illegal activities.

No changes are proposed to the current charges under the Development / Construction rates for occupation based on a square metre charge as the current scales have encouraged contractors to pursue alternative means for site set up facilities off road keeping the road network clear of obstructions wherever possible.

Appendix A also includes a proposal to increase the charge to developers for the promotion of permanent Traffic Regulation Orders. The current fee of £1500 has remained in place since pre 2004, yet the cost of advertising the orders and staff costs have continued to increase. These small scale traffic management measures are taken forward at the request of developers as part of the development management process or as part of a planning condition.

Consideration was also given to increased charges for Pavement Cafés, Promotional Events, Licensed hot/cold food units and Day Rates for use of road space for commercial purposes. Unlike the charges for occupations that have been in place for many years these new charges were only introduced last year and it was considered that a bedding in period was appropriate before any further increases are made.

It is recommended that the charges detailed within Appendix A be adopted and come into operation on the 1st July 2012 if approved by the Finance and Resources Committee.

6. IMPACT

This subject of this report provides support to the economic and environmental well being of the city. It promotes safety and management of the local road infrastructure, with the intension of minimising disruption to the network, whilst maintaining delivery of essential transport services for the travelling public. The report supports service delivery and maintains positive operational outcomes to meet statutory obligations.

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

8. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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Appendix A - Revision of charges from 1st July 2012

Temporary Traffic Restrictions

| | Charge from 01/05/2011 | Charge from 01/07/2012 |
|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| For continuous period of up to 21 days: | | |
| Application received 28 days or more prior to Order coming in to effect | £750 | £800 |
| Application received less than 28 days prior to Order coming in to effect | £1000 | £1100 |
| 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 | £1500 | £1575 |
| Application received less than 28 days prior to Order coming in to effect | £1750 | £1850 |
| For repeat posting of weekly or monthly notices per event | £150 | £160 |

Allowing for work load, 28 days is the minimum normally required to process an application for a temporary traffic order. 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.

Permanent Traffic Orders

| | Charge from 01/05/2004 | Charge from 01/07/2012 |
|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Charges for the promotion of permanent traffic orders | £1500 | £2000 |

Temporary/Permanent Industrial Access

| | Charge from 01/05/2011 | Charge from 01/07/2012 |
|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Charge for visiting site, processing application and granting permission | £400 | £425 |
| Surcharge for illegal occupation | £400 | £500 |

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

| | Charge from 01/05/2011 | Charge from 01/07/2012 |
|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Excavation not involving installation of private apparatus | £400 | £425 |
| Surcharge for illegal occupation | £400 | £500 |

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

| | Charge from 01/05/2011 | Charge from 01/07/2012 |
|--|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Charge for initial application and permission for works which are only one inspection unit | £400 | £425 |
| Surcharge for illegal occupation | £400 | £500 |
| Additional charge for works over one inspection unit | £65 per additional unit | £75 per additional unit |
| Charge for recording plant information in VAULT overlays. | £150 | £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

| Scaffold/Hoarding permits (per street): | Charge from 01/05/2011 | Charge from 01/07/2012 |
|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| For a continuous period of up to 1 month (Under 25 metres in length): | £100 | £105 |
| (25 metres or over) | £150 | £160 |
| For each subsequent month of original application (Under 25 metres in length): | £65 | £70 |
| (25 metres or over) | £100 | £105 |
| For subsequent extension for up to 1 month (Under 25 metres in length): | £90 | £95 |
| (25 metres or over) | £125 | £135 |
| Surcharge for Illegal occupation of the road. | £200 | £250 |
| Mobile tower scaffolds (to be considered as a mobile scaffold it must be erected and dismantled daily otherwise see scaffold charges above) | | |
| Charge per day per location: | £20 | £25 |
| Charge per week per location: | £35 | £50 |
| Surcharge for illegal occupation of the road. | - | £150 |

| Crane, Hydraulic Platform Permits: | Charge from 01/05/2011 | Charge from 01/07/2012 |
|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Charge for granting permission (day permit, per site). | £65 | £70 |
| Charge for granting permission (week permit, per site) | £85 | £90 |
| Roaming permit (day permit up to 5 sites, max 90 minutes per site). | £85 | £100 |
| Surcharge for illegal occupation of the road. | £65 | £250 |

| Temporary Traffic Lights Permits: | Charge from 01/05/2011 | Charge from 01/07/2012 |
|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| For a continuous period of up to one week, charge for granting permission | £75 | £80 |
| Surcharge for illegal occupation of the road. | £400 | £400 |

| Skip Permits: | Charge from 01/05/2011 | Charge from 01/07/2012 |
|---|---|---|
| For continuous period of 7 days | £30 | £32 |
| Surcharge for illegal occupation of the road | £100 | £120 |
| Additional daily charge for a skip sited within a Pay and Display area. | £30 for zones ABCEF & G £15 for all other zones | £30 for zones ABCEF & G £15 for all other zones |

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 amount equates to standard charges, for which there has been no increase, made by the Council for daily occupation of a Pay and Display space for the purposes of loading etc.

| Development / Construction – Occupation of Road Space: | Charge from 01/05/2011 | Charge from 01/07/2012 |
|--|--|--|
| <p>Occupation of Road Space The area enclosed by the outer edges of the following roads; Holburn Street, Willowbank Road, Springbank Terrace, Wellington Place, South College Street, Guild Street, Regent Quay Virginia Street, Commerce Street, East North Street, West North Street, Mounthooly Roundabout, Gallowgate, Spring Garden, Maberly Street, Rosemount Place, Esslemont Avenue, Rose Street, Union Street and all traffic sensitive roads listed on the Scottish Street Works Register (data retained on the Street Works Gazetteer contact the Roadworks Co-ordination Unit for more information).</p> <p>This is based on the area of a parking bay of 15sq.metres for parallel parking where an average charge would be £30 for all day parking.</p> <p>All other roads not included above</p> <p>This is based on the area of a parking bay of 15sq.metres for parallel parking where an average charge would be £15 for all day parking.</p> | <p>Footprint area of occupation charged at £2 per square metre per day.</p> <p>Footprint area of occupation charged at £1 per square metre per day</p> | <p>Footprint area of occupation charged at £2 per square metre per day.</p> <p>Footprint area of occupation charged at £1 per square metre per day</p> |

| Promotional events for commercial purposes: | Charge from 01/05/2011 | Charge from 01/07/2012 |
|---|---|---|
| <p>St. Nicholas Street, Castlegate, the Green, and other pedestrian priority areas are charged as follows;</p> <p>Minimum invoice charge will be £50 per day to cover Administration costs.</p> | <p>Footprint area of occupation charged at £10 per square metre per day or part day</p> | <p>Footprint area of occupation charged at £10 per square metre per day or part day</p> |

| Pavement Café Licence | Charge from 01/05/2011 | Charge from 01/07/2012 |
|--|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <p>Application for permission to site temporarily, tables & chairs on the footway. Validity period from 1 April – 31 March</p> | <p>£100 per year or part.</p> | <p>£100 year or part.</p> |

| Licensed hot / cold food units: | Charge from 01/05/2011 | Charge from 01/07/2012 |
|--|--|---|
| <p>Licensed hot / cold food unit across the City would be charged at a rate (Note, this exceeds the fees for pavement cafes which are now £100 per annum).</p> | <p>£250 per annum for lease of the road space.</p> | <p>£250 per annum for lease of the road space</p> |

| Day rates for the use of the road space for commercial purposes, for profit. | Charge from 01/05/2011 | Charge from 01/07/2012 |
|---|--|---|
| <p>These charges apply to semi-permanent units within the city Centre.</p> | <p>Footprint area of occupation charged at £0.67 per square metre per day. (minimum charge of £10 per day)</p> | <p>Footprint area of occupation charged at £0.67 per square metre per day. (minimum charge of £10per day)</p> |

| Driveway application out with planning application process | Charge from 01/05/2011 | Charge from 01/07/2012 |
|---|------------------------|------------------------|
| Administration costs for the processing of applications | £60 | £60 |

| Switching Off / Bagging of Traffic Signals | Charge from 01/05/2011 | Charge from 01/07/2012 |
|--|------------------------|------------------------|
| Administration costs for the processing of Bagging Signals | £50 | £60 |

Note; these charges do not apply to Utilities Companies or their associated Contractors.