

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE **Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure**

DATE **22 January 2013**

DIRECTOR **Gordon McIntosh**

TITLE OF REPORT **Notice of Motion by Councillor Jennifer Stewart that the “Council instructs officers to report on the feasibility and implications of removing / ending on street Sunday parking charges”**

REPORT NUMBER: **E PI / 12 / 307**

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report provides information relating to the on street parking charges in the city centre, specifically relating to Sundays. This report is prepared in response to the Notice of Motion raised by Councillor Jennifer Stewart that the “Council instructs officers to report on the feasibility and implications of removing / ending on street Sunday parking charges”.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that the committee agree that no further action should be taken with regard to the removal of the on-street Sunday car parking charges.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

An annual loss of revenue to the Council of approximately £63,500 (based on the last years revenue figures from August 2011 to July 2012) would result from removing Sunday on street parking charges. Potentially there would be additional loss of revenue from the off street car parks as drivers would favour the free on street spaces.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

A significant loss of on street parking availability for shoppers within the city centre is likely, along with a reduction in turnover of parking, reducing the number of people able to access the city centre at this busy weekend period and subsequently a loss of income to the businesses.

5. BACKGROUND / MAIN ISSUES

5.1 Background

5.1.1 At the meeting of the Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure Committee on Tuesday 11 September 2012 Cllr Jennifer Stewart moved her Notice of Motion in relation to the removal of on street parking charges in the city centre on Sundays. This Notice of Motion was referred to the Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure Committee from the Council meeting of Wednesday 22 August 2012. The Committee resolved to instruct officers to prepare a report in respect of the motion.

5.1.2 Councillor Stewart raised concerns for people attending places of worship and in particular St Mary's R.C. Cathedral where a Sunday mass is held in Polish at 3.00pm

5.2 Sunday On Street Parking Charges

5.2.1 The operation of parking charges on a Sunday are restricted from 1.00pm to 5.00pm. This differs from the midweek and Saturday time periods and was predominantly set in order to allow those attending the majority of city centre churches to do so by car without incurring parking charges.

5.3 Rationale for On Street Parking Charges

5.3.1 On street parking charges within the city centre are applied predominantly to provide turnover of parking. This in turn brings new shoppers into the retail premises of the city centre on a continual basis over the course of the day, as parking spaces are vacated and subsequently reoccupied.

5.3.2 Without parking charges, on street parking spaces would likely be occupied for the duration of the day by those vehicles entering them first, with little or no turnover. Those vehicles occupying the spaces early in the morning are most likely to be those belonging to city centre residents or workers / employees of retail establishments.

5.3.3 The effect of this would be that visitors to the city centre throughout the day, primarily shoppers, would be unable to access on street parking. There would be very limited turnover of spaces which would constrain the effective supply of available parking within the city centre.

5.4 Sunday On Street Parking Revenue

5.4.1 The impact of the removal of on street parking charges would result in reduced revenue income to the Council. It is likely that drivers would have a preference for the free on street spaces as opposed to the charged off street spaces, therefore filling the free spaces first. This will

reduce the number of drivers parking within the off street car parks, thus reducing revenue in these facilities.

5.4.2 Income associated with car parking form part of the Council's 5 year Business Plan.

5.4.3 Sunday parking charges apply for a shorter duration of the day than those on the other days of the week, and therefore contribute less to the total revenues. Sunday on street parking in the city centre zones contributed the following revenue in the year 2011 / 2012 – (August to July.)

Zone	Amount (approximate)
A	£9,500
B	£13,000
C	£6,000
E	£11,500
F	£8,500
G	£15,000
Total	£63,500

The removal of Sunday on street parking charges would result in a loss of revenue to the Council of approximately £63,500.

5.5 Implications of the Removal of Sunday Parking Charges

5.5.1 The removal of on street parking charges on a Sunday would result in on street parking spaces being occupied for the full duration of the day with little or no turnover.

5.5.2 Spaces would be occupied by city centre workers from first thing in the morning for the duration of the day. This will prevent shoppers and residents from being able to access parking within the city centre as easily as at present and will prevent new shoppers arriving continually throughout the day. This in turn would impact on residents parking opportunities and subsequently there will be a reduced supply of shoppers in the city centre.

5.5.3 The provision of free parking all day in the city centre will encourage the use of private vehicles by city centre workers, acting against both local and national transport policy.

5.5.4 There is a risk that residents within the city centre and those visiting on a Saturday night will park their vehicles overnight with no incentive to move them on Sunday morning, further reducing the turnover of parking on street for shoppers.

5.5.5 An additional consequence of parking spaces being occupied both overnight and by workers from early in the morning is how this will impact on those wishing to attend church services within the city centre and actually have an adverse effect to that desired by the motion.

5.5.6 Officers have identified a total of 24 places of worship within the City centre core zones which may currently be affected by the Sunday parking charges. Of these only 3 have been found to conduct afternoon services / masses.

5.5.7 There will be a loss of revenue to the Council of approximately £63,500.

5.6 Summary of Findings

5.6.1 Should on street parking charges be removed on a Sunday, there will likely be a reduction in available parking spaces for visitors to the city centre and residents due to the reduction in the turnover of on street parking as unlimited free parking results in vehicles being left for long periods. With the competing demands for space it is important to have a means of ensuring that spaces become available throughout the day and this provides access for the various demands, residents/visitors/worshippers/shoppers etc.

5.6.2 There will be a loss of revenue to the Council of £63,500

6. IMPACT

Parking charges form part of the Councils Business Plan. The current Local Transport Strategy highlights a preference for use of sustainable transport and identifies targets to reduce the number and proportion of trips by single use car.

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Minutes of Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure Committee meeting, Tuesday 11 September 2012.

<http://committees.aberdeencity.gov.uk/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=2522&T=1>

Minutes of Council meeting, Wednesday 22 August 2012

<http://committees.aberdeencity.gov.uk/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=2527&T=1>

8. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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Consultees comments

Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure Committee

Convener: Councillor Barney Crockett - email sent 12/12/12

Vice Convener: Councillor Ramsay Milne - email sent 12/12/12

Local Members

All Councillors consulted

email sent 12/12/12

Councillor Jean Morrison *has been consulted and has no comments*

Councillor Alan Donnelly *has been consulted and although he would have liked to lift the Sunday charges he sees it as to much a financial loss in these difficult times*

Council Officers

Barry Jenkins, Head of Finance, – *has been consulted and has no comments to make in relation to finance.*

Jane MacEachran, City Solicitor, Continuous Improvement has been consulted

Ciaran Monaghan, Head of Service, Office of Chief Executive has been consulted

Gordon McIntosh, Director of Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure has been consulted

Hugh Murdoch, Head of Service, Shelter and Environment – has been consulted

Margaret Bochel, Head of Planning & Infrastructure, Strategic Leadership – *has been consulted and is in agreement with the recommendations*

Mike Cheyne, Roads Manager has been consulted

Neil Carnegie, Community Safety Manager has been consulted

Dave Young, Account Manager, Service, Design and Development has been consulted

Kathryn McFarlane, Service Co-ordinator

Mark Masson, Committee Services
