

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

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COMMITTEE: **Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure**  
DATE: **19 March 2013**  
DIRECTOR: **Gordon McIntosh**  
TITLE OF REPORT: **Review of Charges for Street Occupations**  
REPORT NUMBER: **EPI/13/034**

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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)

1. That the committee Approve the charges detailed in the report and that these be applied from the 1<sup>st</sup> May 2013

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 road 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 occupations.

A scale of charges for this service was previously set by the Committee in May 2012 and is due for review in 2013.

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 generally been increased around 3% and rounded up to the nearest £5 or £10 to keep the payment structure as simple as possible. The exception is surcharges for illegal occupations reflecting a higher incremental percentage from 20% to 40%.

In the activities where it has been found to be an effective deterrent in reducing the number of unauthorised occupations then there has been no increase in the surcharge value.

However, where charges are applied as a result of unauthorised 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.

Occupations for scaffolds, hoardings, tower scaffolds, and cherry pickers have a higher incidence of unauthorised activities and therefore the surcharges are reflected accordingly in Appendix A.

It is clear from experience of charging where the introduction of high surcharges exist, for example skip permits, very few unauthorised occupations have occurred. In order to improve compliance it is felt that the current level of surcharge should be increased to reflect potential risk to the public and the road users.

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 alternatives for site compounds and set up facilities off road thereby keeping the road network clear of obstructions wherever possible.

Consideration was also given to increased charges for 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 charges were only introduced in the last two years and it was considered that bedding in period was appropriate before any further increases are made. However, it is proposed to increase the Pavement Café License by 10%, as this has remained the same price since May 2005.

It is recommended that the charges detailed within Appendix A be adopted and come into operation on the 1<sup>st</sup> May 2013 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 1<sup>st</sup> May 2013

### Temporary Traffic Restrictions

	Charge from 01/07/2012	Charge from 01/05/2013
<b>For continuous period of up to 21 days:</b>		
Application received 28 days or more prior to Order coming in to effect	£800	<b>£825</b>
Application received less than 28 days prior to Order coming in to effect	£1100	<b>£1150</b>
<b>For continuous period over 21 days but not more than 6 months:</b>		
Application received 28 days or more prior to Order coming in to effect	£1575	<b>£1625</b>
Application received less than 28 days prior to Order coming in to effect	£1850	<b>£1925</b>
For repeat posting of weekly or monthly notices per event	£160	<b>£165</b>

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 01/07/2012	Charge from 01/05/2013
Charges for the promotion of permanent traffic orders	£2000	£2000

### Temporary/Permanent Industrial Access

	Charge from 01/07/2012	Charge from 01/05/2013
Charge for visiting site, processing application and granting permission	£425	<b>£450</b>
Surcharge for illegal occupation	£500	<b>£600</b>

### Consent for Excavating in the Road under Section 56 or 61 of the

### Roads (Scotland) Act 1984.

	Charge from 01/07/2012	Charge from 01/05/2013
Excavation not involving installation of private apparatus	£425	<b>£450</b>
Surcharge for illegal occupation	£500	<b>£600</b>

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

	Charge from 01/07/2012	Charge from 01/05/2013
Charge for initial application and permission for works which are only one inspection unit	£425	<b>£450</b>
Surcharge for illegal occupation	£500	<b>£600</b>
Additional charge for works over one inspection unit	£75 per additional unit	<b>£80 per additional unit</b>
Charge for recording plant information in VAULT overlays.	£150	<b>£160 per year *</b>
<b>For adopted plant further charges will be made over the maintenance period for year 2 and 3 where applicable at an appropriate rate</b>	-	<b>£50 per year.</b>

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.

\*Charge issued on an annual basis for the life of the use of the apparatus to the owner / user for un-adopted apparatus (wholly private).

## Street Occupations

<b>Scaffold/Hoarding permits (per street):</b>	Charge from 01/07/2012	Charge from 01/05/2013
For a continuous period of up to 1 month (Under 25 metres in length):	£105	<b>£110</b>
(25 metres or over)	£160	<b>£170</b>
For each subsequent month of original application (Under 25 metres in length):	£70	<b>£75</b>
(25 metres or over)	£105	<b>£115</b>
For subsequent extension for up to 1 month (Under 25 metres in length):	£95	<b>£100</b>
(25 metres or over)	£135	<b>£145</b>
Surcharge for Illegal occupation of the road.	£250	<b>£350</b>
<b>Surcharge for non compliance with the conditions of a permit issued by Aberdeen city Council.</b>	-	<b>£120</b>
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:	£25	<b>£30</b>
Charge per week per location:	£50	<b>£60</b>
Surcharge for illegal occupation of the road.	£150	<b>£200</b>
<b>Surcharge for non compliance with the conditions of a permit issued by Aberdeen city Council.</b>	-	<b>£120</b>

<b>Crane, Hydraulic Platform Permits:</b>	Charge from 01/07/2012	Charge from 01/05/2013
Charge for granting permission (day permit, per site).	£70	<b>£75</b>
Charge for granting permission (week permit, per site)	£90	<b>£95</b>
Roaming permit (day permit up to 5 sites, max 90 minutes per site).	£100	<b>£110</b>
Surcharge for illegal occupation of the road.	£250	<b>£300</b>
<b>Defect inspection of traffic management for above work.</b>	-	<b>£35</b>

<b>Temporary Traffic Lights Permits:</b>	Charge from 01/07/2012	Charge from 01/05/2013
For a continuous period of up to one week, charge for granting permission	£80	<b>£85</b>
Surcharge for illegal occupation of the road.	£400	<b>£500</b>

<b>Skip Permits:</b>	Charge from 01/07/2012	Charge from 01/05/2013
For continuous period of 7 days	£32	<b>£35</b>
Surcharge for illegal occupation of the road. This can also be issued for non compliance with the conditions of a permit issued by Aberdeen city Council.	£120	£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.

Or is non compliant with regards to permit conditions.

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.





<b>Promotional events for commercial purposes:</b>	Charge from 01/07/2012	Charge from 01/05/2013
<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>	Footprint area of occupation charged at £10 per square metre per day or part day	Footprint area of occupation charged at £10 per square metre per day or part day

<b>Pavement Café Licence</b>	Charge from 01/07/2012	Charge from 01/05/2013
<p>Application for permission to site temporarily, tables &amp; chairs on the footway. Validity period from 1 May – 30 April</p>	£100 Per year or part.	<b>£110</b> <b>Per year or £60 for remaining period of 6 months or less.</b>

<b>Licensed hot / cold food units:</b>	Charge from 01/07/2012	Charge from 01/05/2013
<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 currently £100 per annum).</p>	£250 per annum for lease of the road space	£250 per annum for lease of the road space

<b>Day rates for the use of the road space for commercial purposes, for profit.</b>	Charge from 01/07/2012	Charge from 01/05/2013
<p>These charges apply to semi-permanent units within the city Centre.</p>	Footprint area of occupation charged at £0.67 per square metre per day. (minimum charge of £10per day)	Footprint area of occupation charged at £0.67 per square metre per day. (minimum charge of £10per day)