

SPECIAL ANGUS COUNCIL

4 MARCH 2021

REVIEW OF CHARGES WITHIN THE INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICE

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF INFRASTRUCTURE

ABSTRACT

This report sets out proposals for the charges to be levied by service areas in Infrastructure for the financial year 2021/22.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Council:

- (i) Notes that this report has been prepared on the basis that the percentage increases for charges have, in the main, been applied at a rate of an average 3.0% rounded up where appropriate;
- (ii) Approves the pricing structures as contained within Appendix 1; and
- (iii) Agrees that the charges are effective from 1 April 2021, or the start of any seasonal operations.

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE COUNCIL PLAN/COMMUNITY PLAN

The proposal contributes to the following local outcomes contained within the Angus Council Plan and Community Plan:

ECONOMY

- An inclusive and sustainable economy
- Attractive employment opportunities

PLACE

- Safe, secure, vibrant and sustainable communities
- An enhanced, protected and enjoyed natural and built environment

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The charges covered by this report are reviewed continuously by each business unit throughout the financial year. All amendments to charges are reported to Members on an annual basis as part of the budget setting process. The last annual review of charges was reported to Angus Council on 27 February 2020 (Report No. 76/20 refers).
- 3.2 The Communities Committee of 19 January 2021 (reference Item 3(2)) approved the agreed Biennial Schedule of Charges for Arbroath Harbour for financial years 2021/22 and 2022/23.
- 3.3 The review of charges for 2021/22 has been carried out as part of the budget setting process and the percentage increase, has been standardised across the council to the July 2020 RPI indicator - 3.0%, before accounting for VAT, where applicable. The charging structure attached at **Appendix 1**, has been prepared on the basis of this percentage increase, rounded up to the nearest 10p.

4. PROPOSED CHARGES

- 4.1 The proposals summarised in the table below would come into force on 1 April 2021 or at commencement of any seasonal operation.
- 4.2 The Administration announced their intention to suspend parking charges on 8 February 2021 until the end of the current council term in May 2022. No changes to the cost of off-street parking in Angus Council car parks are proposed for 2021/22.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 It is estimated that the increased charges for Roads & Transportation, as detailed in **Appendix 1**, will generate additional income of £3,000. Any suspension of parking charges approved will result in a reduced income and borrowing costs in the order of £378,000 for 2021/22 and would need to be taken into account in the budget setting process.

NOTE: The background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) which were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report are:

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Roads & Transportation				
No.	Service for which charges are currently levied	2020/21 Charge	2021/22 Charge	BENCHMARKING/RATIONALE
	(Charges are VAT inclusive unless marked)	£	£ (circa.+3%)	
1	Road construction consent fees – based on hourly rate	79.40	81.80	Under Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 can only charge for inspections. We charge based on Clerk of Works salary costs.
2	Street naming and house numbering	1 property £103; 2 - 5 properties £128.75; 6 - 10 properties £154.50; 11 - 25 properties £180.25; 26 - 50 properties £257.50; 51 - 100 properties £412; 101 - 150 properties £618; 151 - 200 properties £772.50; 200+ properties £1,030.00; New street names £154.50/street.	1 property £106.00; 2 - 5 properties £132.50; 6 - 10 properties £159.00; 11 - 25 properties £185.65; 26 - 50 properties £265.25; 51 - 100 properties £424.50; 101 - 150 properties £636.50; 151 - 200 properties £795.75; 200+ properties £1,061.00; New street names £159.25/street.	Charging regime as per Report 52/19.
3	Tables and chair permits	154.90	159.50	
4	Road opening permits (vehicular access)	138.50	142.75	Comparable with neighbouring authorities.
5	Road opening permits (excavations)	270.30	278.50	Unable to compare with neighbouring authority which makes daily charge.
6	Road closures for roadworks < 5 days	270.30	278.50	Comparable with neighbouring authorities.
7	Roads closures > 5 days, and for all non roadworks needs (parades, events, charities)	396.50 plus advert costs	408.50 plus advert costs	Comparable with neighbouring authorities.
8	Design services for street lighting	95.20	98.00	Dundee City varies depending on scheme size/complexity. Minimum £300.
9	Charging for street lighting inspections for adoptions	62.80	64.75	Minimum charge per visit.
10	Occupation of a road for skip/building materials etc. permission: Traffic sensitive location - per month Non-traffic sensitive location - per month	104.70 54.20	107.75 55.75	Unable to compare with neighbouring authority which makes weekly/daily charge.
11	Scaffolding permits:			

	Traffic sensitive location – per month	258.30	266.00	Unable to compare with neighbouring authority which makes weekly/daily charge.
	Non-traffic sensitive location – per month	129.25	133.25	
12	Inspection fees for new roads and Street Works Act (set by statute)	TBC	TBC	Set by statute.
13	Tourist signage (brown signs)m staff costs and manufacturing/installation costs	Recharged at costs, including staff time	Recharged at costs, including staff time	
14	Switch off traffic lights for utilities etc.	100.85 or 151.20 on overtime	104.00 or 155.75 on overtime	Comparable with neighbouring authorities.
15	On-street parking dispensation	£51.50 per application for up to 5 days, plus £25.75 per month or part month thereafter. PLUS Free for up to 5 days then £5.15/week/ parking place occupied or part occupied thereafter.	£53.00 per application for up to 5 days, plus £26.50 per month or part month thereafter. PLUS Free for up to 5 days then £5.25/week/ parking place occupied or part occupied thereafter.	Charging regime as per Report 52/19.
16	Off-street parking suspension	Part of car park, from 1 parking bay up to 50% occupancy, £25.75 per application for up to 5 days, plus £12.90 per month or part month thereafter; OR Part of car park, more than 50% occupancy, £51.50 per application for up to 5 days, plus £25.75 per month or part month thereafter; OR Entire car park (regardless of number of parking bays), £51.50 per application for up to 5 days, plus £51.50 per month or part month thereafter; PLUS For free car parks, no charge for up to 5 days then	Part of car park, from 1 parking bay up to 50% occupancy, £26.50 per application for up to 5 days, plus £13.25 per month or part month thereafter; OR Part of car park, more than 50% occupancy, £52.50 per application for up to 5 days, plus £26.50 per month or part month thereafter; OR Entire car park (regardless of number of parking bays), £53.00 per application for up to 5 days, plus £53.00 per month or part month thereafter; PLUS For free car parks, no charge for up to 5 days then	Charging regime as per Report 52/19.

		£5.15/week or part-week/bay or part bay thereafter; OR For charging car parks, charge of £4.12/per day or part day/bay or part bay thereafter.	£5.25/week or part-week/bay or part bay thereafter; OR For charging car parks, charge of £4.25/per day or part day/bay or part bay thereafter.	
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Equality Impact/Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment Form

(To be completed with reference to Guidance Notes)

Step 1

Name of Proposal (includes e. g. budget savings, committee reports, strategies, policies, procedures, service reviews, functions):

REVIEW OF CHARGES WITHIN THE INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICE

Step 2

Is this only a **screening** Equality Impact Assessment

Yes/No

(A) If Yes, please choose from the following options **all** reasons why a full EIA/FSD is not required:

(i) It does not impact on people

Yes/No

(ii) It is a percentage increase in fees which has no differential impact on protected characteristics

Yes/No

(iii) It is for information only

Yes/No

(iv) It is reflective e.g. of budget spend over a financial year

Yes/No

(v) It is technical

Yes/No

If you have answered yes to any of points above, please go to **Step 16**, and sign off the Assessment.

(B) If you have answered No to the above, please indicate the following:

Is this a full Equality Impact Assessment

Yes/No

Is this a Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment

Yes/No

If you have answered Yes to either or both of the above, continue with Step 3.

If your proposal is a **strategy** please ensure you complete Step 13 which is the Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment.

Step 3

(i) Lead Directorate/Service:

(ii) Are there any **relevant** statutory requirements affecting this proposal? If so, please describe.

(iii) What is the aim of the proposal? Please give full details.

(iv) Is it a new proposal? Yes/No Please indicate OR

Is it a review of e.g. an existing budget saving, report, strategy, policy, service review, procedure or function? Yes/No Please indicate

Step 4: Which people does your proposal involve or have consequences for?

Please indicate all which apply:

Employees Yes/No

Job Applicants Yes/No

Service users Yes/No

Members of the public Yes/No

Step 5: List the evidence/data/research that has been used in this assessment (links to data sources, information etc which you may find useful are in the Guidance). This could include:

Internal data (e.g. customer satisfaction surveys; equality monitoring data; customer complaints).

Internal consultation (e.g. with staff, trade unions and any other services affected).

External data (e.g. Census, equality reports, equality evidence finder, performance reports, research, available statistics)

External consultation (e.g. partner organisations, national organisations, community groups, other councils).

Other (general information as appropriate).

Step 6: Evidence Gaps.

Are there any gaps in the equality information you currently hold? Yes/No

If yes, please state what they are, and what measures you will take to obtain the evidence you need.

Step 7: Are there potential differential impacts on protected characteristic groups? Please complete for each group, including details of the potential impact on those affected. Please remember to take into account any particular impact resulting from **Covid-19**.

Please state if there is a potentially positive, negative, neutral or unknown impact for each group. Please state the reason(s) why.

Age

Impact

Disability

Impact

Gender reassignment

Impact

Marriage and Civil Partnership

Impact

Pregnancy/Maternity

Impact

Race - (includes Gypsy Travellers)

Impact

Religion or Belief

Impact

Sex

Impact

Sexual orientation

Impact

Step 8: Consultation with any of the groups potentially affected

If you have consulted with any group potentially affected, please give details of how this was done and what the results were.

If you have not consulted with any group potentially affected, how have you ensured that you can make an informed decision about mitigating action of any negative impact (Step 9)?

Step 9: What mitigating steps will be taken to remove or reduce potentially negative impacts?

Step 10: If a potentially negative impact has been identified, please state below the justification.

Step 11: In what way does this proposal contribute to any or all of the public sector equality duty to: eliminate unlawful discrimination; advance equality of opportunity; and foster good relations between people of different protected characteristics?

Step 12: Is there any action which could be taken to advance equalities in relation to this proposal?

Step 13: FAIRER SCOTLAND DUTY

This step is only applicable to **strategies** which are key, high level decisions. If your proposal is **not** a strategy, please leave this Step blank, and go to Step 14.

Links to data sources, information etc which you may find useful are in the Guidance.

Step 13(A) What evidence do you have about any socio-economic disadvantage/inequalities of outcome in relation to this strategic issue?

Step 13(B) Please state if there are any gaps in socio-economic evidence for this strategy and how you will take measures to gather the evidence you need.

Step 13(C) Are there any potential impacts this strategy may have specifically on the undernoted groupings? Please remember to take into account any particular impact resulting from **Covid-19**.

Please state if there is a potentially positive, negative, neutral or unknown impact for each grouping.

Low and/or No Wealth (e.g. those with enough money to meet basic living costs and pay bills but have no savings to deal with any unexpected spends and no provision for the future).

Impact

Material Deprivation (i.e. those unable to access basic goods and services e.g. repair/replace broken electrical goods, warm home, leisure and hobbies).

Impact

Area Deprivation (i.e. where people live (e.g. rural areas), or where they work (e.g. accessibility of transport)).

Impact

Socio-economic Background i.e. social class including parents' education, people's employment and income.

Impact

Other – please indicate

Step 13(D) Please state below if there are measures which could be taken to reduce socio-economic disadvantage/inequalities of outcome.

Step 14: What arrangements will be put in place to monitor and review the Equality Impact/Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment?

Step 15: Where will this Equality Impact/Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment be published?

Step 16: Sign off and Authorisation. Please state name, post, and date for each:

Prepared by: Ian Cochrane, Director of Infrastructure; 16 February 2021

Reviewed by: Doreen Phillips, Snr Practitioner (Equalities) 17/02/21

Approved by: