

SPECIAL ANGUS COUNCIL

3 MARCH 2022

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 2022/23.

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 2.5% rounded up where appropriate.
- (ii) approves the pricing structures as contained within Appendix 1.
- (iii) agrees that the charges are effective from 1 April 2022, or the start of any seasonal operations; and
- (iv) agrees to delegate to the Director of Infrastructure Services authority to review Electric Vehicle Energy Tariffs quarterly and implement energy price changes to track the cost of energy to the council.

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 4 March 2021 (Report No. 63/21 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 2022/23 has been carried out as part of the budget setting process and the percentage increase, has been standardised across the council to the July 2021 RPI

indicator – 2.5%, before accounting for VAT, where applicable. The charging structure attached at **Appendix 1**, has been prepared based on 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 2022 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 2022/23.

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 2022/23 and would need to be considered in the budget setting process.

6. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 6.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed for this report – see **Appendix 2**.
- 6.2 The Assessment concludes that there are neutral impacts on protected characteristic groups for the proposals contained in this report.

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:

- Report No. 63/21

Report Author: Director of Infrastructure

Email Details: Communitiesbusinesssupport@angus.gov.uk

List of Appendices

Appendix 1 – Review of Charges – Roads & Transportation
Appendix 2 – Equality Impact Assessment

Roads & Transportation				
No.	Service for which charges are currently levied	2021/22 Charge	2022/23 Charge	BENCHMARKING/RATIONALE
	(Charges are VAT inclusive unless marked)	£	£ (circa.+2.5%)	
1	Road construction consent fees – based on hourly rate	81.80	84.00	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 £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.	1 property £108.75; 2 - 5 properties £136.00; 6 - 10 properties £163.00; 11 - 25 properties £190.25; 26 - 50 properties £272.00; 51 - 100 properties £435.00; 101 - 150 properties £651.50; 151 - 200 properties £815.75; 200+ properties £1,087.50; New street names £163.25/street.	Charging regime as per Report 52/19.
3	Tables and chair permits	159.50	163.50	
4	Road opening permits (vehicular access)	142.75	146.25	Comparable with neighbouring authorities.
5	Road opening permits (excavations)	278.50	285.50	Unable to compare with neighbouring authority which makes daily charge.

6	Road closures for roadworks < 5 days	278.50	285.50	Comparable with neighbouring authorities.
7	Roads closures > 5 days, and for all non roadworks needs (parades, events, charities)	408.50 plus advert costs	418.75 plus advert costs	Comparable with neighbouring authorities.
8	Design services for street lighting	98.00	100.50	Dundee City varies depending on scheme size/complexity. Minimum £300. Under further review by Street Lighting Partnership for consistency across region.
9	Charging for street lighting inspections for adoptions	64.75	66.50	Minimum charge per visit. Under further review by Street Lighting Partnership for consistency across region.
10	Occupation of a road for skip/building materials etc. permission: Traffic sensitive location - per month Non-traffic sensitive location - per month	107.75 55.75	110.50 57.25	Unable to compare with neighbouring authority which makes weekly/daily charge.
11	Scaffolding permits: Traffic sensitive location – per month Non-traffic sensitive location – per month	266.00 133.25	272.75 136.50	Unable to compare with neighbouring authority which makes weekly/daily charge.
12	Inspection fees for new roads and Street Works Act (set by statute)	TBC	TBC	Set by statute.
13	Tourist signage (brown signs), 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.	104.00 or 155.75 on overtime	106.50 or 159.75 on overtime	Comparable with neighbouring authorities.
15	On-street parking dispensation	£53.00 per application for up to 5 days, plus £26.50 per month	£54.50 per application for up to 5 days, plus £27.25 per month	Charging regime as per Report 52/19.

		or part month thereafter. PLUS Free for up to 5 days then £5.25/week/ parking place occupied or part occupied thereafter.	or part month thereafter. PLUS Free for up to 5 days then £5.50/week/ parking place occupied or part occupied thereafter.	
16	Off-street parking suspension	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	Part of car park, from 1 parking bay up to 50% occupancy, £27.25 per application for up to 5 days, plus £13.50 per month or part month thereafter; OR Part of car park, more than 50% occupancy, £53.75 per application for up to 5 days, plus £27.25 per month or part month thereafter; OR Entire car park (regardless of number of parking bays), £54.50 per application for up to 5 days, plus £54.50 per month	Charging regime as per Report 52/19.

		or part month thereafter; PLUS For free car parks, no charge for up to 5 days then £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.	or part month thereafter; PLUS For free car parks, no charge for up to 5 days then £5.50/week or part-week/bay or part bay thereafter; OR For charging car parks, charge of £4.50/per day or part day/bay or part bay thereafter.	
17	Electric Vehicle Energy Tariffs	Cost per kWh used £0.23	Cost per kWh to track energy prices + admin costs	Charges commenced in November 2021 (refer to Report No. 197/21). It is proposed that the Director of Infrastructure be given delegated authority to review charges quarterly and implement energy price changes to track the cost of energy to the council. Periodic updates will be provided to Members through Information Reports.



Equality Impact/Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment Form

Step 1

Name of Proposal: Review of Charges – Roads & Transportation

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:

Infrastructure/Roads & Transportation

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

Roads (Scotland) Act 1984, Section 21 – allow roads authority to charge for road construction consent inspections, including street lighting inspections.

Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, Section 97 - places responsibility for naming and numbering new streets and numbering of new buildings erected on an existing street and allows fees to be charged. Charging regime as per Report No. 52/19.

Roads (Scotland) Act 1984, Section 59 - prohibits the placement of anything on the public road that could constitute an obstruction, unless the written consent of the Roads Authority is given. Allows processing costs to be recovered.

Roads (Scotland) Act 1984, Section 56 – If you propose to excavate in a road (carriageway, footway, footpath or cyclepath), there is a requirement under the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 to obtain permission from the local Roads Authority. This is done by applying for the relevant permit, for which a charge can be applied.

Roads (Scotland) Act 1984, Section 61A - makes provision for charging for occupation of roads.

New Roads and Street Works Act 1991, Section 75 & 134 – allows fees to be charged for inspections.

Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 – allows recharge of costs for non-statutory tourist signage (brown signs).

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

To ensure recovery of costs for use of the road network.

(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

The previous charges were set in Report No. 63/21 and are reviewed in this proposal.

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).
Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

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

Comparisons with other authorities and charges set nationally.

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

Not applicable.

Other (general information as appropriate).

Not applicable.

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: Neutral.

Disability

Impact: Neutral.

Gender reassignment

Impact: Neutral.

Marriage and Civil Partnership

Impact: Neutral.

Pregnancy/Maternity

Impact: Neutral.

Race - (includes Gypsy Travellers)

Impact: Neutral.

Religion or Belief

Impact: Neutral.

Sex

Impact: Neutral.

Sexual orientation

Impact: Neutral.

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.

No consultation undertaken.

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)?

There is a neutral effect on protected characteristics.

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

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

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?

Not applicable.

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

No.

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? None.

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. N/A

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. N/A

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

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. N/A

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 N/A

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

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

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

Published with the committee report available at angus.gov.uk

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

Prepared by: **Walter Scott, Service Leader – Roads & Transportation, 27 January 2022**

Reviewed by: **Doreen Phillips, Senior Practitioner (Equalities), 28 January 2022**

Approved by: **Ian Cochrane, Director of Infrastructure, 31 January 2022**
