

# EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET – 23 APRIL 2008

## CHARGES FOR ROADS SERVICES AND PARKING

### Report By Executive Director Of Neighbourhood Services

#### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to seek Cabinet's approval for the introduction of charges relating to certain permits, permissions and services granted under the terms of the Roads Scotland Act 1984, approve an increase in charges for other services already being applied, and approve an increase in the charge for parking on floors 5 to 10 of the multi-storey car park in Kilmarnock from 50p per day to £1-00 per day.

#### 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Development Services Committee, at the meeting of 6 March 2001, approved the introduction of charges for a number of services, including the promotion of Temporary Traffic Orders, provided to external organisations.
- 2.2 The Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 requires Roads Authorities to issue permits under various sections;
- Section 56- Road Opening Permits
  - Section 58 - Road Occupation Permits
  - Section 85 - Skip Permits
- 2.3 In the past it has not been Council policy to charge for such permits to encourage anyone who requires to work in or on the public road to apply for them, thereby ensuring proper control and assisting with traffic management issues.
- 2.4 The Transport (Scotland) Act 2005 attempts to improve the quality of and co-ordination of road works and requires the Council to exercise greater control of all who wish to occupy the road network. Roads Authorities will be required to enter all road occupations onto the Scottish Roadworks Register, and to effectively manage all such activities. This will considerably increase inspection and administration costs to the Council. However, it should improve co-ordination of all works on the road network and reduce inconvenience to road users.
- 2.5 The staffing implications of the additional work are being considered as part of the Roads & Transportation Service Review, currently in progress.

**2.6** Development Services Committee at the meeting of 12 October 2005, approved a new scale of charges for on and off street parking in Kilmarnock. The tariff was increased in all of the car parks except the multi-storey car park where charges remained unchanged to encourage additional use of the facility. In recent years the flat rate charge of 50p per day for floors 5 to 10 of the multi-storey car park, has significantly increased the use of the car park.

**2.7** The Council is currently investing in the order of £2M upgrading the multi-storey car park as part of the Kilmarnock Town Centre Public Realm project. Works include waterproofing of the decks, colour coating the decks, provision of a lift, CCTV cameras and upgrading edge containment.

**3. INTRODUCTION OF CHARGES FOR PERMITS AND INCREASE TO EXISTING CHARGES**

**3.1** Due to the additional costs that will be incurred in the administration of the issuing of permits arising from the Transport (Scotland) Act 2005, from April 2008, it is proposed that charges for permits be introduced as follows:-

Section of Roads (Scotland) Act	Type of Permit	Proposed Charge 2008/09
Section 56	Road Opening Permit for works and excavations	£100
	Road Opening Permit for Construction of Access Crossing	£35
Section 58	Road Occupation Permit for;	
	(a) Placing of materials on roads	£50
	(b) Cranes and other plant	£35
	(c) Scaffolding	£50
Section 85	Skip Permits	£20
	Temporary Traffic Signal Permit	£60

A comparison of charges for permits with other Scottish Councils is included in Appendix 1.

**3.2** The £20.00 fee for the skip permit is to make it more affordable for householders and to discourage fly tipping. It is also intended that the responsibility for obtaining the permit under Section 85 of the Roads Scotland Act 1984 will be transferred to the skip Hire Company. The Act clearly states an owner of a skip who uses it or permits it to be used on a road in contravention of this Section commits an offence. No charge is made where skips are placed on private ground.

**3.4** Similarly the Road Opening Permit for construction of access crossings is set at a value to make it more affordable for householders who wish to lower kerbs to park their vehicles off the public road.

- 3.5** Permits will normally be issued for a 4 weekly period. Longer periods may be granted, but will be charged in multiple of 4 weeks.
- 3.6** Additionally, if the work requires the closure of “pay and display” parking bays, a charge will also be made to cover the loss of revenue for the period of the closure.
- 3.7** In addition, it is proposed that increases should be made to the following charges, last amended in 2001:

<b>Service</b>	<b>Charge 2001</b>	<b>Proposed Charge 2008/09</b>
5 Day Temporary Traffic Order (by notice)	£150	£200
Emergency Temporary Traffic Order (by Notice)	£200	£250 plus additional charge for urgent requests resulting in out-of-hours staff time costs
Temporary Traffic Orders (Advertised in Press)	£300	£400 plus advertising at cost (an additional charge will be made for advice on matters such as diversion signing)
Supply of Traffic data (different levels of information supplied)	£100 £100 £30	£150 £150
Neighbourhood watch signs	£19	£25

- 3.8** The intention is to review charges on an annual basis and amend if necessary to take into account any additional costs in providing the service.
- 3.9** It is intended that, whenever possible, a consistent level of charging will be applied across the three Ayrshire Council areas. This has been taken into account when settling the above level of the charges. It is proposed that the new charges will take effect from 2 May 2008.

#### **4. PARKING CHARGES**

- 4.1** It is proposed to increase the flat rate charge in the upper floors of the multi-story car park from 50p to £1-00 per day. The proposed charge will continue to be significantly lower than the cost of parking for 4 hours or more in the lower floors of the multi-storey car park (£2-00) or the other long stay car parks in the town centre (£2-50).
- 4.2** Consultation has taken place with representatives of Kilmarnock Retailers Association and although they felt the percentage increase was high and would have preferred an increase in stages, they were agreeable to the

principal of an increase in the flat rate for this area of the multi-storey car park. No other increases to the parking fees are proposed.

- 4.3** The proposed £1.00 per day flat rate for all day parking in the multi-storey compares favourably with charges for all day parking in other comparable town centres. In Ayr, parking for more than 6 hours in charging long-stay car parks, costs £3.00. In Hamilton, the charge for all day parking is £5.60. In Paisley, the all day parking charge is set to rise from £1.00 to £2.00 from May 2008.
- 4.4** A study is currently underway to establish the feasibility of introducing decriminalised parking enforcement in East Ayrshire, where the Council would take over the responsibility for enforcing parking restrictions from the Police and Traffic Wardens. The study is due to be completed in June and its findings will be reported to Cabinet. Subject to a satisfactory outcome from the feasibility study, existing waiting restriction orders and parking tariffs will require to be reviewed prior to the implementation of decriminalisation of parking.

## **5. COMMUNITY PLAN IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1** Greater control of activities on the public road will lead to improved traffic management, which addresses the following themes:-
- Improving Safety
  - Improving the environment

## **6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1** The issue of permits for Road Works and Excavations, Road Occupation, The Placing of Skips and Temporary Traffic Orders etc is empowered to the Council under Section 56, 58, 62 and 85 of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 and sections 14 and 16 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.
- 6.2** The Council may vary parking charges by Notice under the terms of Section 46A of the Road Traffic Regulation Act, 1984. In accordance with the Local Authorities' Variation of Charges at Off Street and Designated Parking Places (Notice Procedures) (Scotland) Regulations 1997 the Notice must be published no less than 21 days before the new charges take effect.

## **7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1** At the rates proposed, it is anticipated that income to the Council from all such permits will be approximately £25,000.
- 7.2** It is anticipated that the annual income to the Council from the increased parking charge will be approximately £15,000.

## **8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

**8.2** It is recommended that Cabinet :-

- (i) approves the introduction of charges for permits as detailed in this report
- (ii) approves the increase to existing charges for other Roads services as detailed in this report
- (iii) approves an increase in the charge for parking on floors 5 to 10 of the multi-storey car park from 50p per day to £1-00 per day
- (iv) notes that a review of on-street parking charges will be carried out following the feasibility study of decriminalised parking and a further report will be submitted to Cabinet in due course

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JB/MS/YK  
10<sup>th</sup> April 2008

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS Nil**

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**Schedule of Charges**

Service	Average of Scottish Councils (13 returns) £			East Ayrshire (Proposed) £/4 week period	North Ayrshire £	South Ayrshire £
	7 days	4 Weeks	13 weeks			
Section 56 Private Access Crossing	N/A	N/A	N/A	35	35	35
Section 56 Other Road Opening Permits	52	N/A	N/A	100	100	100
Section 58 Road Occupation:						
a) Placing of materials	36	56	133	50	50	20 - 50
b) Cranes and Plants	39	N/A	N/A	35	35	35
c) Scaffolding	N/A	76	178	50	50	50
d) Temporary Traffic Signals	N/A	N/A	N/A	60	60	N/A
Section 85 Skip Permits	20	40	114	20	20	20

**N.B There is a large variation in the way that Councils charge for these services. The average figures should be regarded as a rough estimate only.**