

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET – 24 MARCH 2010

CHARGES FOR ROADS SERVICES

Report By Executive Director Of Neighbourhood Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** The purpose of the report is to seek Cabinet approval for revised charges relating to Road permits, permissions and services provided by the Council for implementation on 01 April 2010 and to note that a review of Car Parking Enforcement Charges will be undertaken once the study for Decriminalised Parking is complete.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** In 1998/99 the Council adopted Audit Scotland's 'Challenge of Charging' document as its main guide to charging policy. The revised costs contained within the Appendix of this report have been developed in accordance with the principles of this policy.
- 2.2** Corporate Management Team, at the meeting of 14 January 2009, approved the use of the Challenge for Charging Checklist for use by Managers when preparing charges. The Challenge for Charging Checklist has been introduced to provide documentation to show that proper consideration has been given to the proposing of new or amending of existing charges.
- 2.3** Cabinet, at the meeting of 23 April 2008, approved the introduction of 'Roads Division' charges relating to certain permits, permissions and services and also approved an increase in charges for other services already being applied. The report highlighted that it was intended to review the charges on an annual basis and amend if necessary to take account any additional costs in providing the service. The present charges were last increased on 01 May 2009.
- 2.4** The 'Managing Charges – Services Managers Checklist' has been completed in support of the proposed changes relating to Road permits, permissions and services.

3.0 CHARGES

- 3.1** This report covers charges for permits, permissions and services provided by the Council's Roads and Transportation Service. Appendix 1 details the current level of charges together with the charges being proposed for 2010/11.

- 3.2** Benchmarking has been carried out with Authorities in the West of Scotland. It is intended that, whenever possible, a consistent level of charging will be applied across the three Ayrshire Councils and details of North Ayrshire Council's proposed charges for 2010/11 and South Ayrshire Council's current 2009/10 charges which are under review are shown in Appendix 1.
- 3.3** Roads and Transportation staff are in regular contact with contractors, developers, and skip hire companies throughout the year and no adverse comments regarding the level of service provided or fees charged have been forthcoming.
- 3.4** The general increase in charges is in line with 3% income inflation uplift set out in the Budget 2010/11 – 2012/13 Outline Strategy report approved by Cabinet on 21 October 2009. The Access Crossings increase, although greater than 3% reflect the current at cost of providing this service.

4. INSPECTION CHARGES FOR PUBLIC UNDERTAKERS

- 4.1** The New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 as amended by the Transport (Scotland) Act 2005 (the Act) make undertakers wholly responsible for the management of their road works. Road works authorities are responsible for monitoring the performance of the undertakers and wholly responsible for co-ordination. Road works authorities are empowered under Section 134 of the Act to charge undertakers a number of sample inspections that they will carry out to monitor undertakers' performance. The estimated total number of sample inspections for which payment is made is based on a maximum 30% of the actual number of units of inspection. The prescribed fee of each sample inspection is fixed by statute. As of 1st April 2010 this will be £31.

5. CAR PARKING ENFORCEMENT CHARGES

- 5.1** It is not proposed to increase Car Parking Enforcement Charges at this time. It is intended that these charges will be reviewed once the feasibility study for decriminalised parking is complete.

6. COMMUNITY PLAN IMPLICATIONS

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

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 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.

8. FINANCIAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

8.1 It is anticipated that the proposed increases submitted for approval will raise income by approximately 3% on the services identified which will equate to approximately £2,150.

8.2 There is a potential risk that income may not be realised given the current prevalent market conditions.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:-

- (i) approves the revised charges for permits, permissions and services as detailed in Appendix 1.
- (ii) note that a review of Car Parking Enforcement Charges will be undertaken once the review of the study for Decriminalised Parking is complete.

William Stafford
Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

WS/JB/MS/YK
15th March 2010

BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Challenge of Charging Checklist for the Roads and Transportation Service

For further information on this report contact John McRobert, Operations Manager, Telephone No 01563 576310

Implementation Officer: John.bryson@east-ayrshire.gov.uk

APPENDIX 1 - CHARGING FOR SERVICES

SERVICE	EAC Current Charges 09/10	EAC Number of Applications for 08/09	EAC Proposed Charges 10/11	North Ayrshire Council Proposed Charges 10/11	South Ayrshire Council Current Charges 09/10
1. Access Crossings	£872 including VAT. (Note: no allowance has been made to this cost with respect to inflation increase). A fee of £27 is charged to cover cost of admin. and inspection whoever constructs the crossing	4	£880 plus VAT. A fee of £28 is charged to cover cost of administration and inspection whoever constructs the crossing	£650 + VAT	Ceased undertaking this work pre 2002.
2. Road Opening Permit for works and excavations	£103.00	26	£106.00	£103	£100
3. Road Opening Permit for construction of Access Crossing	£36	56	£37.00	£36	£35
4. Road Occupation Permit for placing of materials on roads	£52	20	£54.00	£52	£20
5. Road Occupation Permit for cranes and other plant	£36	10	£37.00	£36	£35
6. Road Occupation Permit for scaffolding	£52	29	£54.00	£52	£50
7. Skip Permits	£21	326	£22.00	£21	£20
8. Temporary Traffic Signal Permit (Three way or more only)	£62	163	£64.00	£62	£60
9. 5 Day Temporary Traffic Order (by notice)	£258	26	£265.00	£258	£250
10. Emergency Temporary Traffic Order (by notice)	£258 plus additional charge for urgent requests resulting in out-of-hours staff time costs	6	£265 plus additional charge for urgent requests resulting in out-of-hours staff time costs	£258	£250
11. Temporary Traffic Orders (advertised in Press)	£412 plus advertising at cost (an additional charge will be made for advice on matters such as diversion signing)	25	£425 plus advertising at cost (an additional charge will be made for advice on matters such as diversion signing)	£400 plus advertising costs	£400 plus advertising costs
12. Supply of Traffic Data (different levels of information supplied)	£155	6	£160.00	£100 per site	No information
13. Neighbourhood watch signs	£26	3	£27.00	£26	£25
14. Inspection Charges for Public Undertaker	1st April 2009 £30.00 statutory	n/a	1st April 2010 £31.00 statutory	1st April 2010 £31.00 statutory	1st April 2010 £31.00 statutory
15. Car Parking Enforcement Charges (Penalty Notices)	Excess Charge - £20.00 Penalty Charge - £30.00	n/a	To be considered during the Decriminalised Parking Review	N/A	Excess Charge - £20.00 Penalty Charge - £30.00