

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE – 2 MAY 2006
CHARGES FOR ROADS SERVICES

Report by Executive Director of Development and Property Services

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To request the Committee's approval for:-

- a) Increased inspection charges to Developers for Road Construction Consents.
- b) Removal of the subsidy by the Council to householders for the construction of crossings over the footway to allow vehicular access to their property.

1.2 To advise the Committee of the intention to charge for road permits at a future date.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Inspection Charges

2.1.1 In accordance with Section 21 of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984, before undertaking any new road construction a developer must obtain Construction Consent. During the construction period, the Roads Authority has the right to carry out inspection and testing on the new work, and has the right to charge for the costs incurred.

2.1.2 The Committee previously approved the introduction of charges for such inspections on 9th March 1999. There has been no increase to allow for inflation since then.

2.2 Access Crossing Charge

2.2.1 It has been the practice of the Council to offer to construct crossings over the footway in order that vehicular access can be made to their property. The work usually includes lowering roadside kerbs and regrading of the footway surface.

2.2.2 Householders are free to arrange their own contractor, but the facility exists to have the work carried out by Roads Contracts.

2.2.3 The current subsidised charge for this is £350 including VAT, based on approximately 2m wide footway and 5 kerb sections.

Additional costs are charged for non standard layouts, or where alterations to street furniture are required.

2.2.4 The charges are also deemed to cover administration and inspection costs.

2.2.5 The actual cost of undertaking this work during 2005/06 was £720 plus VAT of £126, excluding admin and inspection charges. This cost reflects that charged by Private Contracts.

2.3 Permits

2.3.1 It has not been the Council policy to charge for Road Opening and other permits required by the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984, to encourage anyone who requires to work in or on the public road to apply for them, thereby ensuring proper control.

2.3.2 However, the new Transport (Scotland) Act 2005 requires the Council to exercise greater control of all who wish to occupy the road network for whatever reason, and it is considered that a charge for permits will be appropriate for the future in order to recover costs incurred.

3. PROPOSALS

3.1 Inspection Charges

3.1.1 Presently, the Inspection charges are calculated as a percentage of the estimated total cost of the Road Bond for the construction of the new roadworks.

3.1.2 It has been established that, since charges were introduced in 1999, the cost of inflation on labour is in the order of 25%. The proposal is to raise the charges, based on the same criteria, by this amount.

The charges would then become:

Bond Value	Existing Charge	Proposed Charge
Up to £1,000	£21	£26
£1,001 - £5,000	£165	£206
£5,001 - £20,000	£600	£750
£20,001 - £100,000	£2,700	£3,375
Over £100,000	£10,000	£12,500

An inflation increase will be added at the start of each financial year.

3.2 Access Crossings

3.2.1 It is proposed to charge the average cost of carrying out the work plus VAT at 17.5%, for all crossings. Based on 2005/06 costs, this will equate to £846 including VAT. An inflation increase will be added at the start of each financial year. This cost reflects that charged by private contractors.

3.2.2 The householder will still have the option of arranging for a private contractor to carry out the work. A fee of £26 will be charged to cover cost of admin and inspection, whoever constructs the crossing.

3.2.3 It will still be departmental practice to offer householders the opportunity to have access crossings provided free of charge where footway or kerbing work is being undertaken outside their property as part of the annual structural maintenance programme.

3.3 Permits

3.3.1 The proposed charges for permits will be presented for approval once the cost of fulfilling the Councils obligations under the Transport (Scotland) Act 2005 are known.

4. COMMUNITY PLAN IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Improving safety and improving the environment.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The authority for the current charges is given under Section 140 (6) of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1**
- (i) The revised inspection charges are estimated to increase income by about £43,000 per year, based on the current level of activity.
 - (ii) The increased income from access crossings should result in a saving of about £26,000 per year, again based on the current level of activity.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 It is recommended that the Committee:

- (i) Approve the increased charges for the inspection of new roads; and
- (ii) Approve the recharge of the full costs incurred in the construction of access crossings to householders.
- (iii) Note that a further report will be submitted to Committee regarding the proposed introduction of charges for permits.

James Lavery
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21 April 2006
AW/CT - FV

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

For further information on the contents of this report please contact
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