

## ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	<b>Meeting:</b>	Joint Meeting of Cabinet Members for Regeneration & Environment and Town Centres
2.	<b>Date:</b>	7 March 2011
3.	<b>Title:</b>	Amending fees and charges for provision of highway services
4.	<b>Directorate:</b>	Environment and Development Services

### 5. Summary

For Cabinet Member to consider amending the current charges made for a range of highway services.

### 6. Recommendations

That the proposed revised charges for established highway services outlined in the third column of the table attached as appendix A to this report , be adopted with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011.

## **7. Proposals and Details**

It is proposed that the current charges for processing and implementing a number of highway services should be increased, to help close the gap in the Council's budget for 2011/12.

All of the highway services under consideration fall within existing powers contained within the Highways Act 1980, the Road Traffic Regulations Act 1984, and The New Roads and Street Works Act 1991.

Research has been carried out throughout the whole Yorkshire region in relation to similar charges, to allow comparisons to be made with our existing and proposed charges. A table containing the results of this research is attached as appendix A to this report.

Rotherham's charge for a licence to place a skip on the highway, which would be passed onto customers by skip hire companies, is currently below the average charge in the Yorkshire region. Subsequently, the proposed increased charge from £15 to £17.50 is thought reasonable and would be at the mid range of regional charges and justified under the powers contained within The Traffic Management Act (TMA). Similarly, an increased charge for digging up the highway (NRSWA Section 50 and road opening licence), for arranging traffic regulation orders for road closures, and scaffolding / hoarding licences which are issued to utility companies and development companies, would place us within the mid range of charges made regionally.

The current annual charge for the placement of table and chairs (Café Culture), and the display of goods on the highway is consistent with the approach taken by some other authorities in the Yorkshire region. The number of such licences issued is relatively low, and an increase in the annual charge is not proposed following its introduction in April 2009. Similarly, increased charges are not proposed where licences are required for structures over the highway, such as tower cranes for example.

As some of the proposed increased charges affect regular applicants such as skip companies, it is proposed that letters be posted out to notify them in advance of any changes agreed.

Properly licensed highway services will help to fulfil the aims of the Local Transport Plan, and the TMA in terms of helping to reduce disruption.

## **8. Finance**

The proposed increase in charges, if implemented, would realise approximately £30,700 per annum in increased income. This income in an average year would comprise of an additional £5,000 for the provision of skip licences, £5,000 for licences to dig up the highway, £2700 for licences to construct a vehicle crossings, £4200 for licensing scaffolds and hoardings, and £13500 for arranging traffic regulation orders for temporary road closures.

## **9. Risks and Uncertainties**

There is a small risk that the proposed new charges may be resisted. The increased charges are not excessive, however, and in each case they are still lower than the highest charges in the Yorkshire region. Subsequently, it is anticipated that resistance will be minimal.

## **10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications**

The initiative is in full accord with the LTP2 objectives and the requirements of The Traffic Management Act 2004.

Licensing activities in the highway helps support the clean streets and safer and well maintained roads objectives in seeking an improved environment.

## **11. Background Papers and Consultation**

1. The Highways Act 1980
2. The Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (RTRA)
3. The New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 (NRSWA)
4. The Traffic Management Act 2004 (TMA)
5. LTP2 (2006-2011)
6. Appendix A, Table of comparative charges for the Yorkshire region.

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Appendix A

Permit / licence	Rotherham 2010/11 fee	Rotherham proposed 2011/12 fee	Approx annual volume 2011/12	Approx extra income 2011/212	Barnsley 2010/11 fee	East Riding 2010/11 fee	Hull CC 2010/11 fee	Calderdale 2010/11 fee	Kirklees 2010/11 fee	Sheffield 2010/11 fee	North Yorks 2010/11 fee	Doncaster 2010/11 fee	York 2010/11 fee	Leeds 2010/11 fee	Wakefield 2010/11 fee
Skip	£15 (14 days)	£17.50 (14 days)	2000	£5,000	£10	£15 / £21 depending on size	£20 (7 days)	£15 (28 days)	£11 (7 days); £18 (14 days); £21.50 (21 days); £32.50 (28 days)	£8.50 (15 days)	£15	£12	£24 (28 days)	£15.80 (or £15 tel banking)	£12 (14 days)
Container on highway	£15	£35 (14 days)	10	£200	£10		£90 for 1 month; £60 for each subsequent month	£15 (28 days)	Discouraged	No charge	No charge	£130	£24 (28 days)	£125.80	
Building materials	No charge	No charge	N/A	£0	No charge	£60	£90 for 1 month; £60 for each subsequent month	No charge	Discouraged	No charge	No charge	£130	£5 (per day)	£73.80	No charge
NRSWA Section 50	£250	£300	90	£4,500	£315	£268	£305	£255	£230	£480	£84	£310	£200	£302.50	£175
Road opening	£215	£300	10	£850	£50	£165		£125	£230 (refundable deposit applies)	£380	£89	£310	£200	£129	£175
Permanent vehicle crossing	£42	£50	290	£2,320	£50	£27 plus inspection costs	£129	£18	£120	£50		Actual cost	£42	£17	£45
Temporary vehicle crossing (no excavation)	£75	£100	10	£250	£50		£90 for 1 month; £60 for each subsequent month	N/A	N/A	£80		£130	£200		No charge
Temporary vehicle crossing (with excavation)	£75	£100	2	£50	£50		£80 for 1 month; £50 for each subsequent month	N/A	N/A	£80	£84	£130	£200		£45

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Hoarding	£115 + £50 for each additional street	£150 + £50 for each additional street	10	£350	£110		£90 for 1 month; £60 for each subsequent month	£115		£100 per street	No charge	£130	£49 for first four weeks, £29.00 for each four week extension	£125 + £51.50 p.m. inspection	£70
Scaffolding	£115	£150	110	£3,850	£110	£86	£90 for 1 month; £60 for each subsequent month	£115 (business) £85 (domestic)	£79 (4 weeks) + £35 for each additional 4 weeks (refundable deposit also applies)	£60 domestic; £100 commercial <10m; £180 commercial >10m	No charge	£130	£49 for first four weeks, £29.00 for each four week extension	£73.40	£65
Planned road closure	£725 (includes advertising)	£800 (includes advertising)	170	£12,750	£640	£783	£1,175	£700	£755 (£505 for an extension of a planned closure)	£1,970		£792 + advertising	£320 + advertising	£470.20 + advertising + £25.50 per additional street	£320 + advertising
Emergency road closure	£575	£625	15	£750	£220	£490	£1,175	£700	£265	£682		£542	£320	£372.38 + £25.50 per additional street	£320
S115E tables and chairs (street café)	£100 p.a.	£100 p.a.	10	£0	£250	£50 (non-alcohol) £200 (with alcohol)	£850	£213 p.a. (open up to 7pm) £320 p.a. (open after 7pm)		£80 p.a.		£340	N/A	Varies minimum £200 p.a.	
S115E display of goods	£100 p.a.	£100 p.a.	10	£0	No charge			No charge		No charge					
A boards	No charge (planning permission required)	No charge (planning permission required)	N/A	£0	No charge			Not permitted	Not permitted	Not authorised					
Structure over highway	£100	£100	1	£0	No charge			No charge		£90		£130		£73.40	
S142 licence to plant	£42	£50	1	£8	No charge			No charge	No charge	No charge		No charge		£73.40	
<b>Total</b>				<b>£30,703</b>											