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| Agenda Item | 10 |
| Report No | CIA/15/21 |

HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Committee: City of Inverness

Date: 27 May 2021

Report Title: Proposed Car Parking Charge Amendments

Report By: Executive Chief Officer Infrastructure & Environment

1. Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report sets out a proposal to create an offer to City Centre visitors at the Multi Storey Car Park during June 2021 to sustain or increase footfall to the city centre to help recovery after ongoing Covid-19 impacts, in support of retail business on the release of travel restrictions. The report also sets out the proposal for new charges to be introduced in two car parks in the city – at Torvean and Shore Street Quay.

2. Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to:-

- i. agree the amended Tariff schedule for Rose Street Multi Storey Car Park that has a forecast cost neutral impact on service budgets;
- ii. agree the installation of parking meters at Torvean Car Park, on an Invitation to Pay basis;
- iii. agree that formal consultation of a Traffic Regulation Order takes place later in 2021 for the implementation of enforceable car parking charges at Torvean Car Park; and
- iv. agree the partnership approach being taken forward with the Port Authority in respect of Shore Street Quay Car Park.

3. Implications

- 3.1 **Resource** – The resource implications are outlined in the report. This includes the proposal to amend the current Tariff schedule at Rose Street Car Park by reducing the first one hour to a Zero tariff and to balance income across other stay-periods to ensure a cost neutral impact for the month of June 2021.

- 3.2 **Legal** – There are no legal implications relating to the Rose Street proposal as a Pay on Exit car park does not require a Traffic Regulation Order. The proposal to introduce car parking at Torvean and Shore Street are initially on an invitation to pay basis with the intention for a full consultation through the traffic order process, and agreed Council policy, later in 2021.
- 3.3 **Community (Equality, Poverty and Rural)** – There are no direct implications – the Torvean site is put forward as an invitation to pay car park, until a full consultation can take place as per the agree Council car parking policy.
- 3.4 **Climate Change / Carbon Clever** – There are no direct climate change implications, although the introduction of new car parks at the edge of the city centre will promote a park and walk approach, and fits with the long-term strategy of potential park and ride sites.
- 3.5 **Risk** – There is a risk that a change in usage levels could mean that the amended Tariffs do not achieve a budget neutral outcome. Usage and income levels will be monitored closely to ensure a budget neutral outcome.
- 3.6 **Gaelic** – No implications.

4. 1-hour Free period at the Rose Street Multi Storey Car Park in June 2021

- 4.1 The Inverness City Area Recovery Group requested that officers investigate supporting visitor access to the Inverness City Centre for June 2021 as part of the bounce back recovery programme. As proper management and regulation of On-street restrictions are vital to maintain access for businesses and users it was agreed that attention should be focused on the Multi Storey Car Park. The aim is to encourage and increase footfall via safe and convenient parking in the main car park provided by the Council in the City Centre. This would provide support to retail businesses at the start of relaxation of travel restrictions from June 2021 and would maintain a discounted rate from July onwards by adjusting extended stay tariffs.
- 4.2 Officers have highlighted that any adjustment must be cost neutral to service income and have offered an adjustment to the tariffs by reducing the first ONE hour to a Zero rate but increasing tariffs across two longer stay periods (See 5.1)

5. Range of Tariffs

5.1

| Current Scale, as set in 2018 | | For June 2021 | | From July 2021 onwards | |
|--|-------|---------------|-------|------------------------|-------|
| Up to 1 hour | £1.50 | | £0.00 | | £1.00 |
| Up to 2 hours | £1.50 | | £1.50 | | £1.50 |
| Up to 4hrs | £2.20 | | £3.00 | | £2.50 |
| Up to 6 hours | £3.50 | | £3.50 | | £3.50 |
| Up to 10 hours | £4.00 | | £4.00 | | £4.00 |
| Up to 12 hours | £5.00 | | £5.00 | | £5.00 |
| Up to 18 hours | £6.00 | | £6.00 | | £6.00 |
| Up to 24 hours | £7.00 | | £7.00 | | £7.00 |
| For each subsequent day in excess of 24hrs parking | £5.00 | | £6.00 | | £6.00 |

5.2 Analysis of pre-Covid usage levels and more recent occupancy levels have indicated that no detriment to the service budget can be achieved with the application of the tariffs shown in table 5.1 and it is proposed to implement this tariff change by Notice.

6. Inverness Visitor Management Car Parking

6.1 In October 2019, the Council agreed a new approach to considering the introduction of car parking across the area. The approach was paused at the start of the pandemic and it has not yet been possible to re-start.

6.2 However, over the summer season 2020, many communities experienced significant traffic management challenges as a result of an influx of visitors. It is predicted that the increase in car parking pressures in Inverness with the lifting of lock down measures and increase in staycations will continue for the 2021 season.

6.3 To support traffic management during the 2021 season, it is proposed to install charging machines at two additional new locations in Inverness on a voluntary basis initially. Charges would not be enforced, and signs would be erected to confirm payment was being sought on a voluntary basis to support infrastructure. It is intended that these voluntary arrangements will continue in place until such time as a full Traffic Regulation Order can be advertised for Public consultation, and the process and outcomes of these will be reported to this Committee in due course.

6.4 The two sites proposed are:-

- Torvean Car Park (created as a result of the development of the West Link Stage 2); and
- Shore Street Quay (in partnership with the Port Authority)

6.5 It is proposed that officers will implement a tariff structure consistent with the rest of the Local Authority area.

6.6 The implementation of parking charges (subject to the normal consultation procedures) at Torvean Car Park has been agreed in principle with local Members, albeit the introduction of formal charges will be the subject of wide public consultation and reports to this Committee on any objections received. It is proposed that in the short term, the Car Park will operate as a general use long stay site with an indicative “invitation to pay” tariff structure of:

| Location | Ticket Machines | Spaces | Charging Hours | Special Veh Class | Scale | Tariff |
|---|-----------------|--------|---|-----------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| Torvean Park, Car Park Pay & Display | 4 | 100 | Mon to Sun 24hrs 24 hours max stay | Motorhomes 24 hour Max Stay | Up to 2 Hrs Up to 4 Hrs Up to 12 hrs Up to 24hrs | £1.00 £2.00 £3.00 £5.00 |
| Invitation to Pay | | | | | | |

6.7 Shore Street Quay Car Park would operate as a Motorhome ONLY site with no overnight stays but would allow Motorhome users to park close to the City improving their access for day visits. The Port Authority will provide the site and facilities and Parking Services have been asked to manage it. All income would be reverted to the Port Authority to repay the capital investment made to improve the site.

| Location | Ticket Machines | Spaces | Charging Hours | Special Veh Class | Scale | Tariff |
|---|-----------------|--------|---|--------------------|--------------|--------|
| Shore St Quay, Car Park Pay & Display Car park closed between 10pm & 8am | 1 | 15 | Mon to Sun 8am to 10pm 14 hours max stay | Motorhomes Only | Up to 14 hrs | £5.00 |

6.8 It is proposed that this approach is adopted for these two locations for the summer season 2021 and a consultation would take place later in 2021 to determine the approach going forward. This would involve advertising a Traffic Regulation Order to allow charging with enforcement.

6.9 Members are asked to agree to the installation of parking charge machines at the new Torvean Park, Car Park on an Invitation to Pay basis and approve the partnership approach with the Port Authority to provide this additional Visitor service.

Designation: Executive Chief Officer Infrastructure & Environment

Date: 17 May 2021

Author: Shane Manning, Principal Traffic Officer