

Report To: Environment & Regeneration Committee **Date:** 9 March 2023

Report By: Director, Environment & Regeneration **Report No:** ERC/RT/GMcF/18.636

Contact Officer: Gail MacFarlane **Contact No:** 01475 714800

Subject: Roads & Environmental Services – General, EVCP & PCN Charges for 2023/24

1.0 PURPOSE & SUMMARY

1.1 For Decision For Information/Noting

1.2 The purpose of this report is to advise of changes to specific General Charges approved via the Budget Savings Exercise for 2023/24, and approve changes to the charges for the public use of electric vehicle charge points (EVCP).

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that the Committee:

- Note the changes to specific General Charges approved via the Budget Savings Exercise for 2023/24, as detailed in Appendix 1.
- Approves changes to EVCP Charges for 2023/24, as detailed in Appendix 2.
- Approves changes to the Penalty Charge Notice (PCN) in line with The Scottish Government review of PCN level of charge.

Gail MacFarlane
Shared Head of Roads & Environmental Services

3.0 BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

- 3.1 The Council, via its recent budget savings exercise, approved changes to specific General Charges for 2023/24; these are detailed in Appendix 1.
- 3.2 The Service propose changes to the charge rates for EVCPs. It is proposed to increase charges to ensure that costs arising from electrical energy, maintenance, insurance, rates, management fees and capital replacement, are fully recovered. Cremation and Crematorium charges were agreed to be increased, and Garden Waste Permits were also increased. The proposed charges are detailed in Appendix 2.
- 3.3 In September 2022 the Scottish Government undertook a public consultation which considered the level of fines associated with PCNs. At the time of publishing this consultation the Scottish Ministers did not feel that it was appropriate to raise the levels due to the cost of living crisis. Since that decision was made there have been increased calls from local authorities and other parties asking the Scottish Minister to review the charges reflecting that the rates have not been increased for 22 years. The Scottish Ministers have now revised the levels of the maximum charges that can be implemented for penalty charge notices.

4.0 PROPOSALS

- 4.1 It is proposed to progress with changes to charges approved via the Budget Savings Exercise for 2023/24, as detailed in Appendix 1, and apply revised EVCP Charges for 2023/24, as detailed in Appendix 2.
- 4.2 It is proposed that new rates of PCNs will be the lower limit taking cognisance of the implications this increase may have on members of the public. The proposed increases are detailed in Appendix 3.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendation(s) is(are) agreed:

SUBJECT	YES	NO	N/A
Financial	X		
Legal/Risk		X	
Human Resources		X	
Strategic (LOIP/Corporate Plan)		X	
Equalities & Fairer Scotland Duty			X
Children & Young People's Rights & Wellbeing			X
Environmental & Sustainability			X
Data Protection			X

5.2 Finance

One-off costs:

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed spend this report (£000s)	Virement from	Other comments

Annually recurring costs:

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed spend this report (£000s)	Virement from	Other comments
Revenue	Roads Charges	2023/24	(5)		Additional income
Revenue	EVCP Charging	2023/24	(10)		Additional income
Revenue	Burial Grounds/Cremation	2023/24	(108)		Additional Income
Revenue	Garden Waste	2023/24	(78)		Additional Income
Revenue	PCN	2023/24	(48)		This is not intended to increase the budget due to a projected shortfall in Parking Income

5.3 Legal/Risk

None.

5.4 Human Resources

None.

5.5 Strategic

None.

5.6 Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty

(a) Equalities

This report has been considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) process with the following outcome:

	YES – Assessed as relevant and an EqIA is required.
X	NO – This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, assessed as not relevant and no EqIA is required.

(b) Fairer Scotland Duty

If this report affects or proposes any major strategic decision:-

Has there been active consideration of how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome?

	YES – A written statement showing how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage has been completed.
X	NO – Assessed as not relevant under the Fairer Scotland Duty for the following reasons: Does not affect or propose any major strategic decision.

5.7 Children and Young People

Has a Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES – Assessed as relevant and a CRWIA is required.
X	NO – Assessed as not relevant as this report does not involve a new policy, function or strategy or recommends a substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy which will have an impact on children's rights.

5.8 Environmental/Sustainability

Summarise any environmental / climate change impacts which relate to this report.

None.

Has a Strategic Environmental Assessment been carried out?

	YES – assessed as relevant and a Strategic Environmental Assessment is required.
X	NO – This report does not propose or seek approval for a plan, policy, programme, strategy or document which is like to have significant environmental effects, if implemented.

5.9 Data Protection

Has a Data Protection Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES – This report involves data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.
X	NO – Assessed as not relevant as this report does not involve data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.

6.0 CONSULTATION

6.1 The Head of Legal and Democratic Services and the Chief Financial Officer have been consulted on this report.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 None.

Appendix 1 – Changes to Charges Via Budget Savings Exercise

<i>Fee Type</i>	<i>£Unit Cost 22/23</i>	<i>£Unit Cost 23/24</i>
Road Opening Permit		
All Works (per month)	158.45	Deleted
Minor Works (not more than 3 days)		130.00
Standard Works (all works, except emergency, which take between 4 and 10 working days)		250.00
Major Works (works normally planned 6 months in advance and require longer than 10 working days to complete)		500.00
Cremation and Burial Grounds charges – increase by 10% all charges		
Simple Cremation	408.15	448.97
Cremation All person over 18	764.95	841.45
Burial all persons over 18	974.70	1072.17
Burial all person over 18 (Double internment in single lair)	1462.05	1608.26
Purchase of Lairs	1050.15	1155.17
Purchase of Cremation casket lairs	576.60	634.26
Garden Waste Permits. Increase to £40	32	40

Appendix 2 – Proposed Changes to EVCP Charges

<i>Fee Type</i>	<i>£Unit Cost 22/23</i>	<i>£Unit Cost 23/24</i>
Electric Vehicle Charging		
Connection fee for all chargers (per connection) (incl VAT)	1.00	1.00
22kw and lower, Fast and Slow chargers (per kilowatt hour) (incl VAT)	0.20	0.50
43kw and higher, Rapid charger (per kilowatt hour) (incl VAT)	0.30	0.76

Appendix 3 – Penalty Charge Notice (PCN)

<i>Fee Type</i>	<i>£Unit Cost 22/23</i>	<i>£Unit Cost 23/24</i>
Penalty Charge Notice (PCN)		
Paid within 14 days	30	40
Paid between 15 days and service of Notice to Owner	60	80
Paid between issue of Notice to Owner and service of charge certificate	60	80
Paid after service of charge certificate	90	120