

ITEM No ...5.....

REPORT TO: CITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE – 15 MAY 2023
REPORT ON: PARKING ENFORCEMENT PENALTY CHARGE NOTICES
REPORT BY: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CITY DEVELOPMENT
REPORT NO: 136-2023

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report seeks approval to increase the Penalty Charge Notice (PCN) value following national guidance issued by Scottish Ministers on the revised levels that can be charged for parking contraventions.

2 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that the Committee approves the following amounts payable by a motorist issued with a PCN from 1 July 2023:

- a Penalty Charge Notice of £100.00;
- b Penalty Charge Notice reduced by 50% to £50.00 if paid within 14 days of issue; and
- c Penalty Charge Notice increased to £150.00 if unpaid or unchallenged after 56 days.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The legislation prescribing where income received from on-street parking fines and tariffs can be spent is detailed within Section 55 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. In summary, income must be used to fund parking services, public transport, and road/environmental improvements.

3.2 The new charges are estimated to increase the annual PCN income of circa £800,000 by 25%. This estimate accounts for potential reduction in the number of PCNs issued should the new value serve as a more effective deterrent to non-compliance, and also allows for potential increases in appeals and bad debt.

4 BACKGROUND

4.1 Drivers receive a PCN when parked in contravention of parking regulations. Most PCNs issued relate to parking restrictions that have been introduced to support road safety (double yellow lines, school keep clear markings), accessibility (disabled parking bays), and local business activity (loading bays). An increase in the cost of a PCN will support behaviour change and improvement in parking compliance in these important areas.

4.2 In August 2021, Transport Scotland launched a consultation on PCNs. All the Scottish Local Authorities who responded to the consultation agreed that PCN levels should be increased, which is also consistent with the COSLA position.

4.3 The current PCN value administered by Scottish Councils operating Decriminalised Parking Enforcement (DPE) is £60.00, reduced to £30.00 if paid within 14 days of issue. The PCN value increases by 50% to £90.00 if the ticket remains unpaid and no appeal is submitted.

4.4 The £60.00 PCN value has not been increased since DPE's introduction in April 2001. Had the PCN been reviewed in line with inflation over the intervening years, the current value would be approximately £105.00 (Bank of England Inflation Calculator). It is not known when Scottish Ministers will next review the PCN value, however factoring inflation, future PCN income will be subject to real terms decline until that review takes place.

- 4.5 The new guidance does allow a local authority to set a lower PCN value of £80.00, discounted by 50% if paid with 14 days or increased by 50% if the PCN remains unpaid. It is noted that an £80.00 PCN value would be lower than the 2001 value when inflation in the intervening period is accounted for.

5 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This report has been subject to the Pre-IIA Screening Tool and does not make any recommendations for change to strategy, policy, procedures, services or funding and so has not been subject to an Integrated Impact Assessment. An appropriate Senior Manager has reviewed and agreed with this assessment.

6 CONSULTATIONS

- 6.1 The Council Leadership Team were consulted in the preparation of this report.

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 None.

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