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<b>Report To:</b>	<b>Environment &amp; Regeneration Committee</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>4 May 2023</b>
<b>Report By:</b>	<b>Director, Environment and Regeneration</b>	<b>Report No:</b>	<b>ERC/RT/GMcF/22.650</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Gail MacFarlane</b>	<b>Contact No:</b>	<b>01475 714800</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Fore Street Car Parking Charges Petition</b>		

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## **1.0 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY**

1.1  For Decision  For Information/Noting

1.2 A report entitled "Fore Street Car Parking Charges" was considered by The Petitions Committee on 10 November 2022 where the Petitioner sought:

"As of the 3rd October 2022 parking charges will be applied to Fore Street Car Park in Port Glasgow. There will be free parking 0-3hrs and then £2 a day beyond 3 hours. This long stay car park has always been free to park and services the local community and business nearby including Port Glasgow Health Centre. These charges unfairly affect the staff of nearby businesses and the Health Centre who are providing vital services for the community of Port Glasgow. We are petitioning Inverclyde Council to reconsider charges on this car park subject to any statutory consultations as the impact on staffing and future staffing of these services could be greatly impacted by this change."

1.3 The Petitions Committee considered the request and decided that the issues raised in the petition had merit and remitted it to the Interim Director Environment & Regeneration to submit a report to a future meeting of the Environment & Regeneration Committee with recommendations on this matter. This report fulfils this requirement.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 It is recommended that Committee:

- a. Notes the contents of the report in relation to the petition;
- b. Agrees the current parking tariff remains in Fore Street car park;
- c. Notes that there is a process in place which allows the NHS to formally request that Inverclyde Council regulates their private car park via a Traffic Regulation Order ("TRO") and offer to agree associated costs; and
- d. Notes that each of the three Doctors' surgeries will be entitled to apply as businesses for permits under the proposed Business Parking Permit scheme discussed in the body of the report, should that scheme be implemented.

**Gail MacFarlane**  
**Head of Service – Roads & Environmental Services**

### 3.0 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 At its meeting on 10 November 2022 The Petitions Committee considered a petition, created by an individual residing in the Inverclyde Council area seeking the Council to reconsider charges on the car park at Fore Street, Port Glasgow.
- 3.2 The full description of this petition entered by the Petitioner and shown on the website is as follows:
- “As of the 3rd October 2022 parking charges will be applied to Fore Street Car Park in Port Glasgow. There will be free parking 0-3hrs and then £2 a day beyond 3 hours. This long stay car park has always been free to park and services the local community and business nearby including Port Glasgow Health Centre. These charges unfairly affect the staff of nearby businesses and the Health Centre who are providing vital services for the community of Port Glasgow. We are petitioning Inverclyde Council to reconsider charges on this car park subject to any statutory consultations as the impact on staffing and future staffing of these services could be greatly impacted by this change.”
- 3.3 Although the existing car park TRO affects all users of the car park, the Petitioner who made representation at The Petitions Committee, Ms C Jamieson, is a GP at the Health Centre and made representation for NHS and pharmacy staff and patients only, with little consideration for other car park users. Her key points were:
- The Health Centre consists of 3 GP Practices, podiatry, physiotherapy, treatment rooms, district nurses;
  - There are 100 staff coming and going on a daily basis;
  - The car park also offers access to 2 pharmacies on Fore Street and John Wood Street;
  - Prior to the introduction of parking charges in this car park there was never a struggle to park;
  - Disabled patients need access to the Health Centre;
  - The Health Centre have experienced difficulty with recruitment;
  - It places financial pressure on those using the car park for more than 3 hours, several days a week;
  - Inappropriate parking within the NHS car park has caused issues for staff using the car park, for delivery access and potentially for ambulances;
  - The signage in the car park is not clear and is adding to stress of users including visiting staff and patients;
  - There is only one Pay & Display machine in the car park and it only accepts coins; and
  - The Petitioner feels CMAL have been treated differently to the NHS due to CMAL being given private spaces in the car park.
- 3.4 As at the date of publication of the report to The Petitions Committee, this petition had received 302 signatures. As it had within the publication period received more than 100 signatures, the petition was brought forward for consideration by The Petitions Committee, all as provided for in the Council’s Petitions Criteria.
- 3.5 The decision was that the Petitions Committee considered the issues raised in the petition had merit and remitted it to the Interim Director Environment & Regeneration to submit a report to a future meeting of the Environment & Regeneration Committee with recommendations on this matter.
- 3.6 The current parking system was introduced to stimulate economic activity in our town centres.
- 3.7 The Fore Street car park in Port Glasgow is a public off-street car park located between Port Glasgow Library and Port Glasgow Health Centre and also offers parking for local shops, businesses and the Swimming Pool located on Fore Street, Bay Street, John Wood Street and

further afield. It has 86 parking spaces, including 6 disabled bays and 2 Electric Vehicle Parking Places which are available to the public to use. There are a further 21 spaces which are private and form parking for the refurbished library building. Prior to the introduction of the current system, there was little or no churn in this car park as it was frequently used by commuters using Port Glasgow Station.

- 3.8 Adjacent to the Health Centre there is a separate car park within the ownership of the NHS. This has 21 marked bays including 3 disabled bays and approximately 6 unmarked bays adjacent to the footway at the side of the Swimming Pool.
- 3.9 The Inverclyde Council (Off-Street Parking Places) Order 2013, as amended, is the TRO currently in force throughout the off-street car parks across Inverclyde and includes Fore Street car park. Until 2 October 2022 the car park was free of charge and time limit. On 3 October 2022 new parking charges were introduced. The new tariff is in effect from Monday to Friday from 8am to 6pm. It offers free parking for 0-3 hours or £2 per day for stays of 3+ hours. The TRO does not include the 27 spaces owned by the NHS or the 21 private spaces which form parking for the refurbished library building. The map in Appendix A shows the extent of the car park covered by the TRO.
- 3.10 The car park to the southeast of the Health Centre is privately owned by the NHS. It would be possible for Inverclyde Council, upon request from the NHS, to include this in a TRO. This would mean Council employed Parking Attendants could manage the car park for a nominal annual fee of say £1,000. If the NHS saw fit, this car park could be for permit holders only (NHS staff). The NHS would need to decide who is eligible to park here if this was the case to allow permits to be issued.
- 3.11 The three Doctors' surgeries at this location are businesses. As well as the core product, there are a number of supporting services made up of both NHS and HSCP staff. It is clear that across the NHS portfolio parking charges vary. If Members were minded to support free parking at this location it would not be unreasonable for other HSCP and indeed wider Council staff to expect free car parking, whether that be at other health centres or indeed operational facilities. This could result in an undermining of the whole "raison d'être" of the car parking policy – to create economic stimulus in the town centres through car parking churn, as well as budgetary implications.
- 3.12 The Committee will be aware of the proposed Business Parking Permit Scheme, the proposed terms and conditions of which were approved by the Committee on 9 March 2023. Such a scheme has not been implemented as the necessary Traffic Regulation Order process, which includes public consultation, possible objections and a hearing to deal with any unresolved objections, has not yet been completed. However, should the scheme be implemented in the terms currently proposed, each of the three doctors' surgeries, as "businesses" in terms of the scheme, be entitled to apply for up to 2 permits.

#### **4.0 PROPOSALS**

- 4.1 It is not proposed to introduce free parking to the Fore Street Car Park, Port Glasgow.
- 4.2 If approved by Members, Officers will contact the NHS to establish whether they are minded to seek inclusion of the their Private Car Park within a TRO, which would be administered for a nominal £1,000p.a.
- 4.3 Should the Business Parking Permit Scheme be implemented in the terms proposed, each of the three doctors' surgeries will be afforded access to this scheme to allow each surgery to apply for up to two parking permits, each at a cost of £125+VAT per permit.

## 5.0 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendations 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	Virement From	Other Comments
02506	Parking	2023/24	£2k		Signs & road markings, to regulate the NHS section of car park.

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments
02506	Parking	2023/24	(£0.75)k		Business parking permits purchased if : a) scheme is implemented in proposed terms; and b) 6 permits are requested by the GP Practices.
02506	Parking	2023/24	(£1k)		Management fee for NHS car park if requested by NHS

## 5.3 Legal/Risk

A variation to the Off-Street TRO is required for the introduction of business parking permits, a process involving: promotion and publication of an order; a period of public consultation; and a hearing to deal with any unresolved objections.

## 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
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, 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

## 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.

Has a Strategic Environmental Assessment been carried out?

	YES – assessed as relevant and a Strategic Environmental Assessment is required.
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X
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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?

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YES

X
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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, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services and the Chief Financial Officer have been consulted on this report.

## 7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 A report entitled “Fore Street Car Parking Charges” was considered by the Petitions Committee on 10 November 2022. With regards business parking permits a report entitled “2023/25 Budget Update & Proposals” was considered by the Inverclyde Council on 15 December 2022.

# Appendix 1

**Key**

-  Extent of off-street parking place
-  Resident Parking Permit Area



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Seal

Stat	Purpose of Issue	Date	Auth
-	REMOVAL OF SECTION OF PARKING PLACE	EP JAN '20	EP GL
-	INTRODUCE RPP ZONE PG1	EP JAN '20	EP GL

**INVERCLYDE COUNCIL**  
 Vehicle Maintenance Facility  
 8 Pottery Street  
 Greenock  
 PA15 2UH  
 Tel: 01475 717171  
 Email: roads@inverclyde.gov.uk  
 www.inverclyde.gov.uk



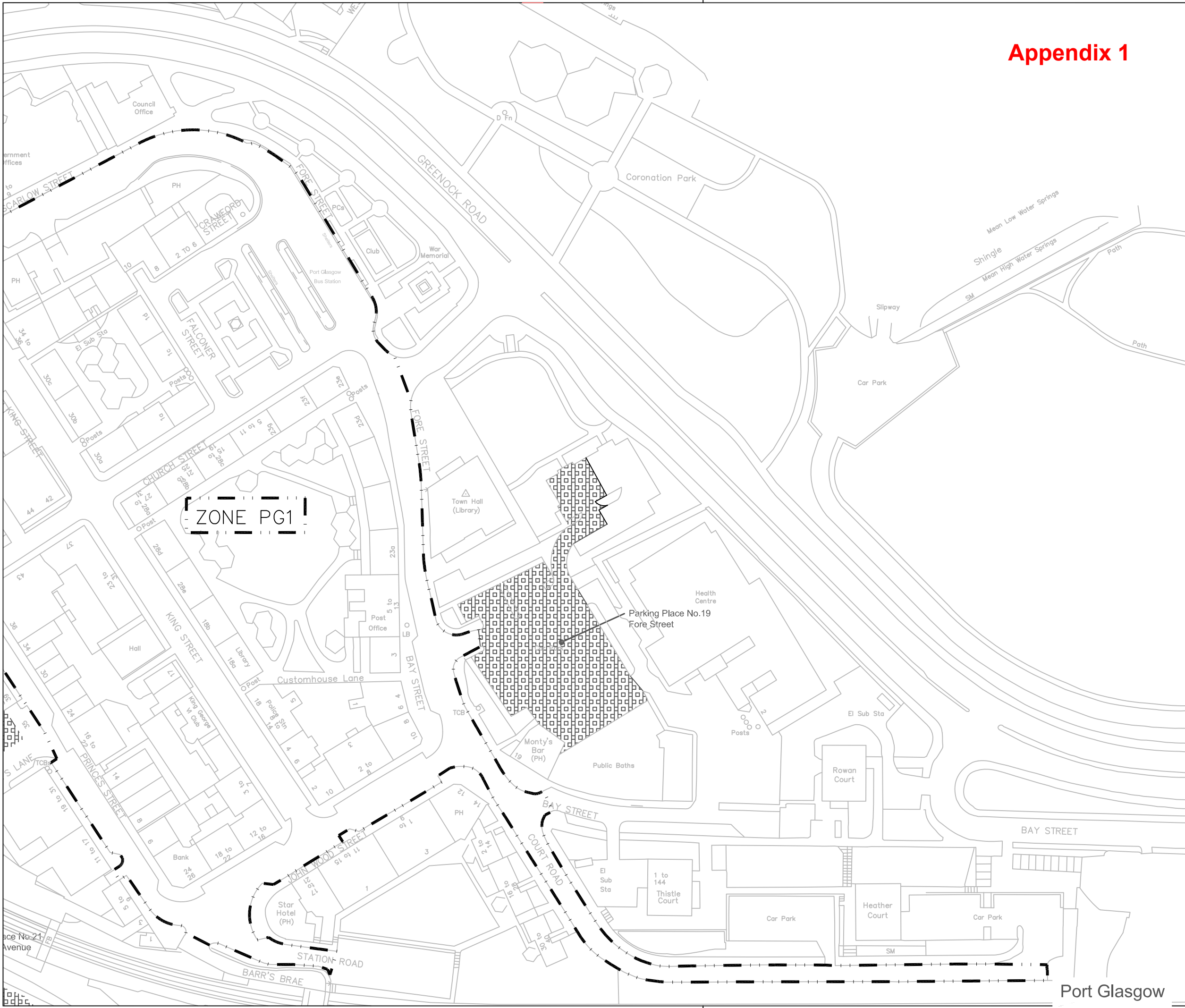
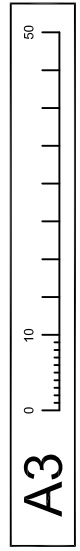
THE INVERCLYDE COUNCIL  
 (OFF-STREET PARKING PLACES)  
 (VARIATION No. 11) ORDER 2020

EFFECTIVE DATE:

Sheet Size	Original Scale	Designed/Drawn	Checked	Authorised
<b>A3</b>	1:1250	EP Date JAN '20	EP Date JAN '20	GL Date JAN '20
Status	Drawing Number			Rev
P	TR/TRO/C134-011			-

Rev -  
 Drawing Number TR/TRO/C134-011  
 Status P

DO NOT SCALE



Port Glasgow