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**nestrans**

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Ross Stevenson  
Road Safety and Traffic Management  
Enterprise Planning and Infrastructure  
Aberdeen City Council  
St Nicholas House  
Broad Street  
Aberdeen  
AB10 1BW

Dear Ross

### **Aberdeen City Council Consultation on Car Parking**

Thank you for your letter of 14 January 2010, regarding proposed changes to on and off street parking within Aberdeen City.

Nestrans is currently working on a Regional Car parking Strategy and intends to hold a workshop with Board members to progress this in the near future. Aberdeen City Council representatives will be involved in the workshop and strategy development. It is intended that the Regional Car Parking Strategy will focus on strategic issues and local implementation will be a matter for local authorities to consider within their own areas. To that end, it is considered that influencing modal shift is a strategic consideration, inherent within the Regional Transport Strategy as approved by the Minister for Transport in 2008 and supported by Aberdeen City Council.

In general, therefore, Nestrans welcomes the proposed changes in Aberdeen City Centre, which will help to encourage more responsible use of cars, fairly and reasonably managed within the realm of achieving the Council's objectives.

Nestrans agrees with the principle of extending operational hours to 8pm, reflecting the need to manage parking into the early evening which is becoming an increasingly important part of the day for commercial operations in the City Centre. However, it may be necessary to reconsider the issue of an overnight charge in off-street car parks when on-street parking is free. This could encourage more drivers to park on-street where space is more limited with consequential impacts on free flow of traffic.

The conversion of East North Street car park from long-stay to short-stay will require the Council to satisfy businesses in the area that there are sufficient alternatives for long-stay parking in the area and that there is a need to alter the existing arrangements. I am not aware of evidence of this car park being used for commuting (other than when it was extensively used by City Council staff), and it appears to currently have adequate space and suitable turnover.

I hope you are able to reflect these views in finalising your proposals, but if you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Rab Dickson  
Transport Strategy Manager