ABSTRACT
This report reviews the parking pressures in the vicinity of Arbroath Infirmary, advises members of proposed operational measures that may help relieve the extent of those pressures, and details options for the procurement of additional parking spaces in or adjacent to the infirmary.

1  RECOMMENDATIONS
1.1 It is recommended that the committee:
   i) notes the current position regarding car parking at Arbroath Infirmary;
   ii) agrees that detailed dialogue now be undertaken with NHS Tayside to investigate each of the alternative delivery options set out in this report to increase parking capacity at Arbroath Infirmary and;
   iii) notes that a further updating report will be brought back to this committee following the summer recess.

2  BACKGROUND
2.1 The issue regarding the capacity of existing parking provision for staff, patients and visitors at Arbroath Infirmary was raised by local members in 2009. There are approximately 70 parking spaces available within the grounds of the infirmary. However, the demand for parking regularly exceeds the parking capacity. There are occasions when the overflow parking into the surrounding streets can present difficulties and can also result in frustration by local residents as they attempt to find available parking at or near their residence. The normal extent of the overflow parking is indicated on the plan in Appendix 1.

2.2 A parking survey was carried out by Angus Council in 2009 and the results indicated that there was a shortfall of typically some 28 parking spaces each day from Monday to Friday.

2.3 Additional parking opportunities were investigated by Roads staff and two possible car park layouts were drafted. One layout catered for additional parking within the hospital grounds providing up to 22 car park spaces plus one disabled space (Appendix 2). Although short of the desired additional capacity this level of provision would relieve the extent of parking within the neighbouring streets. The other possible car park layout was sited to the south of the hospital within the Common Good Land between Rosemount Road and the railway line (Appendix 3). This option would allow the provision of up to 39 spaces plus one disabled space (40 spaces in total) although five existing on-street parking spaces would be lost to form the new access from Rosemount Road. Hence under this option the net gain would be 35 car park spaces. This option would support some further modest expansion to locally accessible health services if required.

2.4 A meeting was held in August 2009 attended by NHS (Tayside) and council staff to discuss the options. NHS (Tayside) agreed to consider the possible provision of additional parking within the hospital grounds subject to available funding being sourced.

2.5 Details of the options were reported to the Infrastructure Services committee on 19 January 2010 (Report No. 53/10) with the recommendation that a further report be brought back to committee on the outcome of any decision by NHS (Tayside) to proceed with the option of procuring the additional parking within the hospital grounds.
2.6 Angus Community Health Partnership prepared a bid in 2009 for funding from within NHS (Tayside) for additional car parking within the grounds of Arbroath Infirmary. The bid was unsuccessful on that occasion.

3 CURRENT POSITION

3.1 A local press article in January 2011 reported that NHS (Tayside) had no current plans to provide more parking at the infirmary. The Head of Roads sought clarification from NHS (Tayside) on this issue and was advised by correspondence on 9 February 2011 (Appendix 4) that the Health Authority intend to provide additional car parking although timescales could not be advised due to the recent reduction in available financial resource and other current priority commitments.

3.2 At the meeting of Infrastructure Services Committee on 1 March 2011, a motion by Councillor King was approved by the committee instructing the Director of Infrastructure Services to re-examine the causes of the parking congestion around Arbroath Infirmary and to report back on options to relieve that congestion, including indicative costs.

3.3 The Head of Roads has recently held discussions with the General Manager of the Angus Community Health Partnership (The General Manager) in order to clarify the NHS (Tayside) position with regard to parking in the vicinity of Arbroath Infirmary, following receipt of their letter of 9 February 2011.

3.4 It has been confirmed that the peak parking demand coincides with the maximum out-patient attendance at the Infirmary, generally on a Tuesday afternoon (orthopaedic clinic) and that a high proportion of patients travel to the infirmary by private car (approx 75%). Nevertheless the NHS (Tayside) offers a broad range of specialist services from Arbroath Infirmary including relatively recently the additional provision of renal services. Collectively these are provided throughout the week and place a range of variable demands for parking in the vicinity.

3.5 There have been complaints of inconsiderate parking near some junctions resulting in lack of visibility and road safety concerns. This has been addressed by locally implementing additional waiting restrictions which in turn places additional pressure on parking demand.

3.6 Discussion between the Head of Roads and the General Manager has also confirmed that the NHS (Tayside) are appreciative of the pressure on parking at times both within the Infirmary site and on the adjacent streets and are keen to find a solution to this.

3.7 In the interim period, investigations have been made to assess other travel options that may help relieve the parking demand. At present, a subsidised bus service (No. 49) operates between the town centre and the infirmary with an hourly service between approx. 9.30 am and 5.30 pm. The service was recently re-tendered and no requests for a more frequent service were received during the consultation period. As most patients/staff arrive by car it would be more desirable to offer a Park and Ride system to reduce the parking in the vicinity of the infirmary. However, considering the short distance involved (direct travel time of three minutes from the town centre) and the lack of suitable parking near the bus station/railway station for integrated travel options, it is unlikely to be sufficiently attractive to deter direct car travel to the infirmary. The NHS Tayside has not promoted a ‘green’ travel plan at present, but will develop such a plan for the infirmary at Arbroath amongst other premises.

4 PROPOSALS

4.1 Further to the discussions between the Head of Roads and the General Manager other options may be pursued to assist with the current car parking issues, i.e.

a) The General Manager has advised that consideration is also being given to relocating certain out-patient services which do not require the specialist diagnostic and other expert systems available at the infirmary, to other alternative NHS (Tayside) facilities within
Arbroath, including for example Little Cairnie Hospital. If this proves possible it may contribute to a reduction in the peak parking demand in the vicinity of the infirmary.

b) Similarly, there are a number of vehicles associated directly with service providers, in particular Social Care Officers and NHS (Tayside) pool cars (in total numbering approx 20 vehicles). Consideration is currently being given to options for the relocation of these vehicles away from the infirmary site. In the case of the Social Care officer vehicles these are currently ‘parked up’ away from the infirmary, but the office based duties of these officers currently require them to visit the infirmary at times. Consideration is currently being given to whether it may be possible also to relocate this office based activity elsewhere in Arbroath.

4.2 Although the above measures may, if realised, assist, there is still a need to consider provision of additional parking facilities at the Infirmary. Procurement of facilities either within the infirmary grounds or on Common Good Land out with the infirmary is dependent on costs and funding options.

4.2.1 Cost estimates of the car parking layouts shown in the appendices have been up-dated to reflect increases in construction materials since Report No 53/10.

The estimated current cost of the car park layout within the hospital grounds is £50,000
The estimated current cost of the car parking on Common Good ground is £75,000 allowing for lighting and minor landscaping works.

4.2.2 The following funding options are considered to be the most realistic and practicable and are therefore recommended for further consideration.

a) car parking provision within the Infirmary grounds.

i) NHS (Tayside) source the entire funding for the project now. This option has been investigated and may be subject to delay pending other current pressures on the available NHS (Tayside) budget. The General Manager has indicated that there may be alternative NHS (Tayside) funds which might be accessible for this purpose and is willing to investigate these.

ii) The Arbroath Common Good Fund provides the funding now to construct the facility and is then reimbursed by NHS (Tayside). This would effectively be a loan to NHS (Tayside) at an agreed interest rate (to reflect the current Public Works Loan Board interest rate) over an agreed period.

b) car parking provision on Common Good Land

i) The Arbroath Common Good Fund provides the resources to allow construction of the car park and then enters into an agreement to lease the car park to NHS (Tayside).

ii) The Common Good Fund procures the construction of the car park with an agreed financial contribution from NHS (Tayside) and the car park is retained as a Common Good asset.

4.3 It has been confirmed to the Head of Roads that NHS (Tayside) are prepared to consider in detail each of the options set out above to address parking capacity, in conjunction with the Council’s Roads and Finance divisions. It should be highlighted that all of the above options require further investigation and due diligence work, in particular those options involving the use of the Common Good Fund in order to safeguard the Common Good position.

4.4 Accordingly, and subject to this committee’s agreement it is proposed that detailed dialogue be undertaken with NHS Tayside to investigate each of these alternative delivery options to increase parking capacity and report further to this committee following the summer recess.
5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no financial implications arising as a direct result of the recommendations contained in this report.

5.2 Any future financial implications will be reported back to the appropriate committee pending final agreement on acceptable options and subsequent further discussion with NHS (Tayside). Should the preferred option involve a potential call on the Arbroath Common Good Fund, it would also be necessary for the local Arbroath members to be fully consulted prior to a report being considered by the Corporate Services Committee seeking approval for the use of common good resources.

6 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no human rights implications arising from the proposals in this report

7 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The issues dealt with in this report have been the subject of consideration from an equalities perspective. An equalities impact assessment is not required.

8 SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT

8.1 This report contributes to the following local outcome contained within the Single Outcome Agreement for Angus Council

- Communities in Angus are safe, secure and vibrant

9 CONSULTATION

9.1 The Chief Executive, Director of Corporate Services, Head of Finance, Head of Law and Administration, Director of Social Work and Health and the NHS (Tayside) have been consulted in the preparation of this report

10 CONCLUSION

10.1 Arbroath Infirmary offers a broad range of specialist services and most patients/visitors arrive by car. The existing parking provision within the grounds of the infirmary is inadequate to meet the demand for parking which results in overspill to adjacent streets, on-street parking difficulties in the vicinity of the infirmary, and road safety concerns. Consideration has been given to alternative travel modes and possible changes to some operational functions within the infirmary which may help relieve the staff/operational parking requirements. However, there is still a requirement to consider the provision of additional parking facilities. This report sets out a number of possible options to be considered by this committee for the procurement of additional parking within the infirmary grounds or on land adjacent. Preferred options may be discussed further in detail with NHS (Tayside) and results reported to committee at a later date.

ERIC S LOWSON
DIRECTOR OF INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

NOTE:

No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above report.
AREA OF CAR PARK = 975m²
AVAILABLE SPACES = 39
DISABLED SPACES = 1
BAY DIMENSION = 2.4m x 4.8m
AISLE DIMENSION = 6m WIDE
JG/PP TD2
3 February 2011

Susan Wilson, General Manager CHP
Social Work & Health
St Margaret's House
Orchard Loan, Orchardbank Bus. Park
FORFAR
DD8 1WS

Dear Susan,

re Car Parking at Arbroath Infirmary, Arbroath

Following various earlier correspondences regarding the above I was surprised to read an article in a recent edition of the Arbroath Herald (Friday 14 January) in which it was stated that the health authority definitely had no plans to add to the car parking provision within the Infirmary site. As you know we have been continuing to correspond on this and to date you have not advised of any definite decision having been made on this. I know that Eric Lowson, Director of Infrastructure Services, and you have endeavoured to speak by phone to clarify this but to date have been unable to make telephone contact to facilitate such discussion.

In order that I might update the council in this regard I should be pleased to receive written confirmation of the health authority’s position in this matter. As there is a meeting of the council’s Infrastructure Services Committee on 1 March 2011, I would be appreciative of a response prior to 25 February.

Should you wish to discuss this with me please feel free to contact me by phone on 01307 473289. Thank you in anticipation of your reply.

Yours sincerely

Jeff Green
Head of Roads

cc: Director of Infrastructure Services
    K Smart, Roads
Dear Jeff

re Car Parking at Arbroath Infirmary

Thank you for your letter of 3 February 2011 and the subsequent telephone conversation.

I can confirm that we do plan to improve parking at Arbroath but, due to the significant reduction in the Capital budget (circa. 47%) for NHS Tayside and the priority commitments within the Capital Programme, there is no resource and therefore no plan to carry out this improvement at the moment.

Please be assured that I am regularly in contact with our Capital Finance Department to encourage redirection of any slippage, as several others are! Mr Carson is well aware of our needs but cannot give us any comfort for 2011/12, but will keep it under review. As you know, the plans are all drawn up and ready to go should the opportunity arise.

My apologies if the press release has given the impression that it will never happen. It absolutely will, but just not as quickly as any of us would like.

Yours sincerely

Susan Wilson
General Manager
Angus CHP