

CHESHIRE EAST

REPORT TO CHESHIRE EAST PLACES ADVISORY GROUP

Date of meeting:

16 Dec 2008

Report of:

Parking Services Task Group

Title:

Update on Civil Parking Enforcement and Proposals for Pay and Display Charging in Cheshire East

1.0 This report provides an update on the progress towards creating a Cheshire East Parking Services section and highlights issues needing resolution prior to Vesting Day.

- 1.1. Civil Parking Enforcement:** Macclesfield and Crewe and Nantwich Borough authorities now operate a civil parking enforcement service under the terms of the Traffic Management Act 2004. This new service has general support of the public due to reduced parking contraventions which cause traffic congestion and inconvenience. In Congleton Borough, on-street enforcement remains the responsibility of the Police. This poses a dilemma. Following transfer of powers to Cheshire East It is not clear:
 - 1.1.1. whether existing on- street enforcement can continue because the law appears not to allow for authorities to have only partial jurisdiction over their area; or
 - 1.1.2. whether the new authority will be able to apply for enforcement of the Congleton area- because Cheshire East is a “non-metropolitan” which puts it outside the terms of the Act.
- 1.2. Clarification is urgently being sought from the Department for Transport by officers as this is now a key issue for the progress of the service.
- 1.3. The County Council – as the existing Highways Authority- has been asked through the Places Steering Group and the Places Members’ Parking Task Group to make an application urgently to the Department for Transport to establish a Special Enforcement Area (SEA) for Congleton. The County Council has been requested by the Members’ Parking Task Group to provide the extra resources needed to help its own local staff to do this.
- 1.4. Steven Jones has appointed Peter Lowe (of consultants RTA Associates) to assist with the SEA application.
- 1.5. For the SEA Application to be successful, support from the existing Congleton Council is required. A report to this effect was written by Paul Burns and Steven Jones, for Congleton Board who have now approved the recommendation to be endorsed by full Council (Dec 10th).

2. Operational Work:

2.1. Officers in Macclesfield and Crewe and Nantwich Borough are working together effectively to make progress to merge their services and maintain service levels at Vesting Day.

3. Car Parking Charges: Off street pay and display charges are currently in place in the majority of Council operated car parks in Macclesfield and Crewe and Nantwich Boroughs. Congleton Borough car parks remain free.

3.1. A Parking Services Strategy has been considered, amended and endorsed by the Members' Parking Task Group (attached). This includes a charging policy and principles to be adopted by Cheshire East.

3.2. Members attending the Places Induction Day at Tatton Park generally supported the principle that the basis for calculating the charge per length of stay should be the same throughout the authority,- following national guidelines. Actual charge levels could differ from one town to the next.

3.3. This meant that charges may be proposed for certain selected town centre car parks in Congleton Borough as this would serve to regulate use and improve availability in central locations requiring short stay. Income earned should cover operating and maintenance costs and allow necessary improvements to the useability, environment and security of a number of these sites.

3.4. Charges in Congleton Borough could be set at levels reflecting local pressures and needs, and not necessarily at the levels of those in Macclesfield and Crewe.

3.5. Officers are reviewing payment methods including "pay on exit" systems and will report progress to the Task Group.

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