

# CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

## PLACES ADVISORY PANEL

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27/1/09

Date of meeting:

Report of:

Parking Task  
Group

Title:

Update on Car Parking Issues

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### 1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1. The report is intended as an update to the Advisory Panel on discussions held at the last meeting of the Parking Task Group on 14/1/09.

2. **Minutes of the last Places Advisory Panel** : these referred to the Group's last report and the group wished first to clarify certain points:

2.1. The report did not include an options appraisal as it was only intended as an update on discussions held. However members should be reassured that the Environmental Services Programme Board has detailed officers to carry out precisely such an appraisal which is under way. The Members' Task Group is being kept fully informed of the progress of this review and a report on this will be taken to the next Task Group meeting on 19/2/09.

2.2. reference was made to pgh 3.3 which said : *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*". It was suggested that this should be added to the objectives within the Strategy. The Task Group considers instead that the Strategy should reflect that all car parks throughout the new Authority will be reviewed (i.e. via the options appraisal referred to) - including all those for which there is currently no usage charge, in order to establish which of them may justify imposition of a charge. This would be based on criteria of local demand, location in relation to shopping and other centres, and the need for more control of circulation and turnover- as specified in the draft Parking Strategy. It should be stressed that this therefore includes locations in all three current Boroughs.

### 3. Draft Parking Strategy

3.1. The Group has considered and revised a proposed Strategy document which it wishes to be put before the Cabinet. Officers have first to submit this to the Management Team.

4. **Enforcement Powers On Street** :The Group received information that letters had been received by Edward Timpson MP (forwarded to us) from both the Department for Transport and the Department for Communities and Local Government, to the effect that :
    - 4.1.1. Cheshire East will be able to apply for enforcement powers in the old Congleton Borough area after April 1<sup>st</sup>
    - 4.1.2. Even before these powers are granted, the existing areas of Macclesfield and Crewe and Nantwich may continue to be enforced.
  - 4.2. This means that the application process can proceed without necessarily needing to be complete by April 1<sup>st</sup>. In any case, DfT are unable to process any new applications before that date. However, there is still a need to complete the preparatory work to support such an application and not to wait until after April 1<sup>st</sup> to do this which would result, obviously, in much further delay in acquiring the powers.
  - 4.3. The County Council is therefore urged to conduct as much of this work as is possible in the remaining months; this is because currently only they can do this as Highways Authority.
  - 4.4. However Borough Council Officers will play their part and in particular are to organise attendance at meetings of parish councils and town councils to explain the nature of proposed on- street enforcement and the extent of powers.
5. **Progress to Day 1 Operation**: the Group received information on the continued good progress of both Macclesfield and Crewe and Nantwich officers in preparing to merge their services. They are working closely, with frequent meetings to harmonise practices and policies, and to undertake changes to documentation, ICT requirements, and other practical aspects.