

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Cabinet Member for Environmental Services

Date of Meeting: 9 July 2009
Report of: Parking and Markets Manager
Subject/Title: Resurfacing of Thomas St (West) Car Park, Crewe; Approval of Capital Expenditure and Appointment of Contractor

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.0 This report sets out proposals for the resurfacing of Thomas Street (West) Car Park, Crewe.

2.0 Recommendations

That the Cabinet Member for Environmental Services

- (1) approve the scheme for the resurfacing of Thomas Street (West) Car Park, Crewe on the basis set out in paragraph 8.1; and
- (2) authorise the Officers to engage a contractor for the scheme on the basis set out in paragraph 9.1.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 Thomas Street Car Park meets the criteria for the introduction of charging in that it is close to town centre and retail outlets (see item elsewhere on the agenda). However, its present condition renders it unsuitable for the imposition of charging or enforcement of regulations. The completion of work on the second half of the site will fulfil the requirements of control and space availability whilst providing the remainder of the estimated income.

4.0 Wards Affected

- 4.1 Crewe East

5.0 Local Ward Members

- 5.1 Councillors Steve Conquest, Margaret Martin and Chris Thorley

6.0 Policy Implications including - Climate change - Health

- 6.1 Improved control of traffic access and circulation may improve air quality.

7.0 Financial Implications for Transition Costs (Authorised by the Borough Treasurer)

- 7.1 Capital is referred to though unfunded in the Base Budget but will pay back over the period of charging, currently estimated at 3 years.

8.0 Financial Implications 2009/10 and beyond (Authorised by the Borough Treasurer)

- 8.1 A new capital scheme for Thomas Street Car Park with forecast expenditure of £105,000 was approved by Cheshire East Cabinet on 24th February 2009. Based on the previous experience of the works required on Thomas Street (East) car park, it is envisaged that the total cost of works will now fall below £100,000. However, when the scheme was approved it was classified as an "unfunded" scheme which in order to proceed would require the Service to find the annual revenue savings of £24,000 (assuming a 5 year total payback) in order to fund the borrowing costs required. It is envisaged that the future income stream from pay and display charging on the car park, once it is operational, will be up to £30,000 p.a which will more than offset the financing costs of the scheme. In year 2009/10 this is expected to amount to £20,000 if charging commences in August 2009.

9.0 Legal Implications (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)

- 9.1 It is proposed that the contractors who were previously selected by Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council last year as offering the lowest priced tender for similar work be engaged for this work. This is permissible under Exception Rule E. 24.

10.0 Risk Management

- 10.1 The current surface of the car park is in a state of disrepair and requires maintenance to avoid accident and insurance issues.

11.0 Background

- 11.1 Capital expenditure of £120,000 on Thomas St East was approved by Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council last year, and work is in progress on that part of the site, on target to complete in June 09. The West side element was the subject of a bid for capital funding from Cheshire East Council and appears in the Base Budget in the sum of £102,000. It is now anticipated that the actual cost will be contained at around £90,000.
- 11.2 Other options: That the proposal be not pursued. This would mean that charging could not be started as the surface was not in a suitable condition to allow marking and control. It would also expose the Council to the risks identified in paragraph 10.1.

12.0 Overview of Year One and Term One Issues

12.1 N/A

13.0 *Access to Information*

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

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