

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Cabinet Member for Environmental Services

Date of Meeting: 9 July 2009
Report of: Parking and Markets Manager
Subject/Title: Introduction of Parking Charges on Thomas Street Car Park, Crewe

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to consider a proposed amendment to the Cheshire East Off-Street Parking Places Order (Crewe and Nantwich) to introduce a pay and display system of parking at Thomas Street Car Park, Crewe and to approve the proposal subject to the outcome of a further 21 day statutory period of public consultation.

2.0 Recommendations

That the Cabinet Member for Environmental Services approve

- (1) that subject to statutory consultation, an amendment be made to the Cheshire East Off-Street Parking Places Order (Crewe and Nantwich) to introduce a pay and display system of parking at Thomas Street Car Park, Crewe;
- (2) that the car park be brought in line with current charges at other car parks, but with amendments, as follows: Monday to Friday inclusive : 8am to 5pm : Up to 1 hour : 70p ; Up to 2hrs = £1.00p ; 2-4hrs = £1.50 ; 4 to 10hrs = £2.20; Saturday and Sunday : free parking. Season tickets will also be sold at a fee of £400 per annum, limited to a maximum of 50% available bays.
- (3) that the additional set-up costs referred to in paragraph 8.3 of the report be funded via the new income stream; and
- (4) that the proposal be advertised for the statutory period of 21 days and any objections be considered by the Cabinet Member at a subsequent meeting.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 Thomas Street Car Park meets Cheshire East Parking Strategy criteria for the introduction of charging in that it is close to town centre and retail outlets.

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 This proposal brings Thomas Street Car Park, Crewe into line with the car parking strategy and charging policy approved by the Cabinet. In addition, 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 None

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

- 8.1 It is estimated that income of £68,000 p.a. should be achieved for the whole Thomas Street site.
- 8.2 Income in year 2009/10 of £45,000 is anticipated if charging commences in August. 2009.
- 8.3 In year 2009/10 estimated one-off expenditure of £8,000 is required to implement pay and display charging- ie. to install meters, signs and cover statutory advertising. Thereafter, additional annual expenditure specific to the site is estimated at £1,200 to cover meter maintenance, vandalism and cash collection.

9.0 Legal Implications (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)

- 9.1 The charges can be imposed and regulations enforced on this car park within the existing terms of the Off Street Parking Places Order and under the provisions of the Traffic Management Act 2004. This is considered to be a “non-Key Decision “ within the Cheshire East definition in that it affects one Ward only and is below £100,000 in financial effect and is therefore appropriate for Portfolio Holder decision.

10.0 Risk Management

- 10.1 In present economic circumstances there is considerable risk to original forecast income levels. However imposition of charges will allow some payback of refurbishment and operational costs to

begin.

11.0 Background

- 11.1 The former Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council and Local Joint Committee gave initial approval, subject to statutory consultation, to the proposal to introduce pay and display charging on this car park.
- 11.2 Thomas Street car park remains one of a few car parks near the town centre of Crewe with no pay and display charge regime. The proposal was initially approved by Board on the grounds that as demand for parking in the town increased, regulation of this car park would be necessary to improve space availability.
- 11.3 Owing to prevailing economic conditions, Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council then decided to defer a decision on this matter for review along with all other car park charges by Cheshire East Council after April 1st 2009.
- 11.4.1 This review has taken place and the Cabinet adopted a Car Parking Strategy at its April 16th meeting. This Strategy stipulated that in principle all car parks could be considered for charging subject to the fulfilment of criteria stated within the charging policy as follows:

1.1.1 Charging Policy

Policy: This Authority will in principle impose charges for parking at levels reflecting local pressures and needs. These may vary:

- as between the different towns and smaller centres
- as between zones within the larger towns

Car parks currently not having charges will be reviewed and the need for application for charges considered in the light of the criteria stated above. Any charges imposed will be designed to regulate use and improve availability as well as diverting long stay away from very central locations. Income earned should cover operating and maintenance costs and allow necessary improvements to the useability, environment and security of a number of these sites. The new authority has inherited a number of off street car parks for which there is no charge. It is intended that parking charges will be considered only on those sites for which a good case can be made under the above criteria.

The reason for the particular charge regime was to accommodate the needs of many community based users of the Cumberland Sports Track.

- 1.2 Objections received during the previous consultation period are listed below. Original letters are available for inspection at Municipal Buildings, Crewe.

- 1.2.1.1 Matthew Levett, Vision Express
- 1.2.1.2 Neel Saini
- 1.2.1.3 Sam Redmond

- 1.2.1.4 Shirley Melia
- 1.2.1.5 Mr. M. Vodrey
- 1.2.1.6 Mr. C. Copeman, Vision Express
- 1.2.1.7 Amanda Yeomans

- 1.3 The majority of these concern low paid workers who would not easily afford to pay to park.
- 1.4 These objections should be considered again and a response given. Further, due to the time elapsed, this proposal must now be subject to another period of statutory consultation, and any objections arising from this period will be considered by the Portfolio Holder at a subsequent meeting.

12.0 Overview of Year One and Term One Issues

N/A

13.0 Access to Information

The Cheshire East Off Street Parking Places Order (Crewe and Nantwich) 2008

Notice of Proposal and Amendment to the Order in respect of Thomas Street Car Park Crewe.

Documents are available for inspection at: Legal Library, Municipal Buildings, Crewe The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

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