

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Cabinet

Date of Meeting:	21 st April 2015
Report of:	Lorraine Butcher, Executive Director of Strategic Commissioning
Subject/Title:	Expansion Options – Snow Hill Car Park, Nantwich
Portfolio Holder:	Cllr David Topping, Service Commissioning

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 This report seeks Cabinet approval to authorise further investigation, preliminary design, and financial appraisal for the expansion of Snow Hill Car Park in Nantwich.
- 1.2 The historic market town of Nantwich hosts a significant number of really successful events such as the Food and Drink Festival, Holly Holy day, and the Jazz Festival which attracts large numbers of visitors boosting the local economy. It is one of our really attractive market towns and further to discussions and consultation with residents, businesses and visitors, the expansion of the towns car parks will be taken forward to improve accessibility into the town for shoppers and leisure activities.
- 1.3 We carried out a Road Show in Nantwich Town Centre on 19 March 2015. The roadshow was well attended by residents, shoppers, businesses and visitors. They were asked for their views with regards to existing parking provision and future improvements to the public realm.
- 1.4 The key points relevant to this report are:
 - 40% of respondents said that more parking was needed;
 - Suggestions for additional parking included both short and long stay; and
 - Snow Hill was frequently identified as a suitable site for parking expansion.
- 1.5 As a Residents First Council, we have listened to the views put forward and now have a great opportunity to deliver the aspirations for additional parking capacity in Nantwich.
- 1.6 It is also clear that we need to ensure that people who use Nantwich Swimming Pool can be recompensed for parking at Snow Hill car park. Therefore, we have agreed with Everybody Sports and Leisure Trust (ESAR) that we will offer a refund administered by ESAR to all users of

the leisure facilities in Nantwich. This follows on from our existing commitment to Wilmslow Leisure Centre and Crewe Lifestyle Centre.

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 That Cabinet authorise further investigation, preliminary design, and financial appraisal for the expansion of Snow Hill Car Park, Nantwich.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendation

3.1 Appendix A provides a technical note on the available options to expand the existing car park within land owned by the Council. The report identifies 3 potentially deliverable options for car park expansion:

1. Modifications to existing car park to the south of the Leisure Centre to provide an additional 11 spaces (indicative costings £24,800);
2. Conversion of a grassed area to the southwest of the Leisure Centre to provide an additional 24 spaces (indicative costings £174,000); and
3. Provision of a new car park to the west of the Leisure Centre, linked to the existing to provide an additional 73 spaces (indicative costings £318,000).

3.2 It is proposed to further investigate these 3 options with a view to ensuring the final design takes into account the potential growth aspirations for Nantwich, together with ensuring the facilities are fully utilised.

4.0 Wards Affected

4.1 Nantwich wards.

5.0 Local Ward Members

5.1 Cllr P Groves, Cllr A Martin, Cllr A Moran & Cllr P Butterill.

6.0 Policy Implications

6.1 The car park expansion will actively contribute to the delivery of the Cheshire East Council Three Year Plan outcomes:

- Outcome 1: Our Local Communities are Strong and Supportive
- Outcome 2: Cheshire East has a strong and resilient economy
- Outcome 4: Cheshire East is a green and sustainable place

7.0 Financial Implications

7.1. The Council is entering into a Section 106 agreement with a housing developer to secure funding in order to take this proposal forward. The agreement is proposing to include the provision of £250,000 for the improvement of parking provision within Nantwich Town Centre together with £500,000 additional funding for improvements to the town's public realm.

- 7.2. The preliminary expenditure associated with the further investigations will initially be funded through Strategic Development, with these costs being recovered through the S106.
- 7.3. There will be a potential loss of income initially from Leisure Centre using our carpark. However, this can potentially be offset with the investment in additional car park spaces.

8.0 Legal Implications

- 8.1 The procurement of the services necessary to design and appraise the expansion options will be delivered through the current Highway Services Contract (Ringway Jacobs) subject to achieving best value for money.

9.0 Risk Management

- 9.1 The major risk lies in the delivery timescale of the development and the associated release of the financial contributions.
- 9.2 All option to be considered for car park expansions are within land owned by the Council, thereby removing the risks associated with land purchase.

10.0 Background and Options

- 10.1 The options for provision of additional car park spaces in Nantwich town Centre are set out in Appendix A.

11.0 Access to Information

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

Name: Paul Traynor
Designation: Strategic Commissioning Manager - Highways
Tel No: 01260 371055
Email: paul.traynor@cheshireeast.gov.uk