

**CHESHIRE EAST BOROUGH COUNCIL PROPOSED (OFF STREET PARKING PLACES) (CREWE AND NANTWICH) (THOMAS STREET EAST AND WEST CAR PARKS, CREWE) (AMENDMENT) ORDER 2009**

**Statement of Reasons for making the above Order**

1. Cheshire East Cabinet agreed a new Parking Strategy in April 2009. Car Park charges for Thomas Street (East and West) Car Park, Crewe, are proposed in light of paragraph 5.1 of the Parking Strategy, the Charging Policy, which states, inter alia, that:

***“This Authority will in principle impose charges for parking at levels reflecting local pressures and needs...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 usability, 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.”***

2. Civil enforcement of on-street parking enforcement has led to increased occupancy of off street car parks. Thus there is a local pressure and need for Crewe Town Centre car parks to be regulated with a consistent charging regime.
3. Thomas Street East and West Car Parks, Crewe, are not currently subject to charges. The Thomas Street Car Parks are located close to the town centre (less than 0.5 kilometre from Marks and Spencer) and within a circle of 0.5 km radius from the town centre that includes all the major town centre car parks that are already subject to charging. (An example of the physical walking distance and times has been checked to be as follows: from Thomas Street Car Park to Marks and Spencer, the distance is 420 steps, taking 3 mins and 57 seconds; and from Oak Street Car Park (already subject to charging) to Marks and Spencer, the distance is 432 steps, taking 4 mins and 6 seconds). Thus the proposed introduction of charges for the Thomas Street Car Parks would make the Thomas Street Car Parks consistent with the pattern of charging for comparable car parks within a similar radius of the Town Centre.
4. The proposed introduction of charges at Thomas Street Car Parks would be made in conjunction with improvement of the car park facilities at the site, and these improved Car Parks will be patrolled and enforced by Civil Enforcement Officers. An increase in such patrols should have a beneficial effect on crime prevention at the Thomas Street site.
5. The proposed order will amend the Borough of Crewe and Nantwich (General) (Off Street Parking Places) (Consolidation) (Minor) Order 2008 to introduce a pay and display system of car parking on Thomas Street East and West Car Parks, Crewe, to restrict waiting as indicated in the report of the Parking and Markets Manager dated 9<sup>th</sup> July 2009 and introduce further restrictions to ensure the Thomas Street East and West Car Parks' proper management and use. Note: the proposed hours of charging have already been adjusted (from the usual 0800 to 1800 hours Mon to Sun, to 0800 to 1700 hours Mon to Fri) to allow for the frequent use of the Thomas Street East and West Car Parks on weekends and during the evenings, by users of the leisure and sports facilities at Cumberland Track. This concession has been made owing to the issue (identified following previous consultations) of the unique position of these particular car parks in this respect, and in recognition of the needs of leisure users.