

# CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

## Cabinet Member for Environmental Services

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**Date of Meeting:** 10 December 2009  
**Report of:** Head of Safer/Stronger Communities  
**Subject/Title:** Proposed Temporary Closure of Lyceum Square Car Park  
Crewe

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### 1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to consider a proposed amendment to the Borough of Crewe and Nantwich (General) (Off Street Parking Places) (Consolidation) (Minor) Order 2008 to effect the temporary closure of Lyceum Square Car Park, Crewe on its days of operation as a parking place. Temporary closure is required to allow the commencement of construction work to deliver the Improvement Scheme for Lyceum Square.

### 2.0 Recommendation

That the Cabinet Member for Environmental Services approves:

- (1) that subject to statutory consultation, an amendment be made to the Borough of Crewe and Nantwich (General) (Off Street Parking Places) (Consolidation) (Minor) Order 2008 ('the Order') to suspend the operation of the Order in respect of the Lyceum Square Car Park, Crewe on its days of operation as a parking place as set out at Schedule 1 to the Order (i.e. all day on a Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and a Sunday, and from 3pm on a Wednesday), for the period from the date that such proposed suspension order may be sealed until 30 August 2010 inclusive; and
- (2) 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 The temporary closure of the Car Park is necessary to allow work to start and, in particular, for health and safety of the general public. Traffic may then be more safely diverted to other public car parks in the vicinity, thus also avoiding traffic congestion difficulties.

### 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 Health and safety of potential car park users is at risk if the car park is not closed during works.

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

7.1 N/A

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

8.1 During the estimated eight months of closure, the car park would have earned £21,000 from pay and display fees. At the same time, some small operational cost savings will be made totalling £1,000. Some of the lost income will be recouped through increases on other car parks.

8.2 Advertising charges for publishing two statutorily required public notices in the press, one for a Notice of Proposal and one, if subsequently approved, for a Notice of Making an Order, will cost in the region of £500 each.

## **9.0 Legal Implications (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)**

9.1 Closure of the car park for such a period requires the making of a suspension order to suspend the operation of the Order in respect of the car park. The procedure for proposing and making such an order is set out in the Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996, of which statutory consultation and publication of proposals is a requirement.

9.2 The proposed suspension order only relates to a suspension of the operative days of the car park as defined at Schedule 1 of the Order. Alternative arrangements for the temporary closure of the area of the car park on the remaining days of Wednesday until 3pm, and all day Friday and Saturday, will still need to be made and notified separately to affected market traders.

## **10.0 Risk Management**

10.1 Failure to follow the consultation process may result in a challenge to any closure notice.

10.2 Failure to close the car park would delay or prevent commencement of work on the Improvement Scheme, with consequential loss of secured funding.

- 10.3 Vehicles displaced during closure may contribute to some congestion and inconvenient street parking. Civil Enforcement Officers will ensure that any contraventions are enforced against.

## **11.0 Options**

- 11.1 To approve or not to approve closure of the whole or part of the car park; not to approve whole closure or to approve only partial closure may compromise the safe commencement of works.

## **12.0 Overview of Year One and Term One Issues**

- 12.1 Closure will result in lost income on the site for the closure period although displacement of vehicles to other public car parks should at least partially offset this.

## **13.0 Access to Information**

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

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