

STATEMENT OF REASONS

The Borough Council of Gateshead (Gateshead Town Centre Off-Street Car Parks and Gateshead Off-Street Car Parks) (Amendment No 4) Order 2016

Current usage levels of the pay and display car parking at Civic Centre Car Park A have shown that there is often more demand for parking than there is availability of car parking spaces. Therefore it is considered expedient to provide more pay and display parking at the Civic Centre Car Park A for the public to meet that demand by relocating some of the operational vehicle parking from Civic Centre Car Park B and incorporating those additional parking spaces within Civic Centre Car Park A. Some of the parking spaces within those car parks will also be reconfigured. In addition this proposed change will make it easier for motorists to identify the correct area of the car park to park in.

Despite vehicles only being permitted to park within defined parking spaces or bays within a car park, some drivers do not adhere to that and park their vehicles in front of access points and emergency exits, making it dangerous or impossible to access these essential areas. In order to address this problem, the Council will be marking these restricted areas within its car parks and any vehicles found to be parking within the restricted areas without prior authorisation, may be issued with a Penalty Charge Notice.

The Council are also proposing to remove from its Traffic Regulation Order reference to the car park known as 'Back High Street / Back Jackson Street', because this car park is no longer owned or operated by the Council.

In order to make purchasing seasonal permits more flexible for the car parks known as: Back Regent Terrace / Back Walker Terrace Car Park, Church Street Car Park, Garden Street Car Park, Heworth North Car Park (Metro Station), Mill Road Car Park, Regent Court Car Park and South Shore Road Car Park; the Council is proposing to enable seasonal permits to be purchased for specified days of the week as oppose to every day of the week or Monday to Friday. This will mean that seasonal permits for the above car parks will be more accessible to those who work part-time or do not need to use the car park every day or Monday to Friday.

The proposals support the following policies:

The vision for Gateshead in the Sustainable Community Strategy Vision 2030 and the Council's Plan 2015 - 2020. In particular the proposals support the Corporate Priority for improving accessibility, connectivity and economic prosperity by attracting more people to live, work, visit and study in Gateshead.

It also supports the priority for ensuring a sustainable Gateshead by facilitating the best use of the Council's limited resources.

Paragraph 2.31 of the joint Gateshead/Newcastle Delivery Plan in the third Tyne and Wear Local Transport Plan recognises the importance of the proper management of available parking. These proposals will improve efficiency within the Civic Centre Car Parks and will also make it easier to keep the restricted areas within the car parks free of vehicles.