STATEMENT OF REASONS

# City of Newcastle upon Tyne

**(Off Street Parking Places) Order 2021**

**(Dean Street MSCP and Grainger Town MSCP Variation) Order 2025**

The Council’s reasons for proposing to make the above Order are as follows:-

**Opening Hours**

It is proposed to keep the two multi storey car parks open from the Friday morning opening, until midnight on Sunday, and no longer closing at midnight on a Friday and Saturday night as they do currently. This will enable customers to park, and be able to return to their vehicle, throughout the night over the weekend, with no physical closure at midnight preventing them access.

This trial is being proposed in support of the Safe Newcastle initiative with a focus on safety in the nighttime economy. The proposals aim to benefit staff working in the night-time economy who may finish their shift after midnight, as well as visitors bringing cars into the city centre at weekends for social events, including designated drivers, those staying in hotels or arriving or departing from nighttime trains, and city centre residents.

Newcastle’s nighttime economy plays an important part in creating a vibrant and sustainable economy for the city and this proposal aims to support that.

Reasons the multi storey car parks currently close are mainly due to anti-social behaviour concerns, including risk of damage to car park infrastructure and issues resulting from the street community/rough sleepers. In order to remain open overnight at weekends, both of the car parks will have security staff present throughout the overnight opening times.

**Parking Charges 7pm until Midnight**

Due to the additional expenditure required to fund the extended opening times, it is proposed to introduce a 50p per hour nominal charge for the period of 7pm until midnight, in those two multi storey car parks on Friday and Saturday nights only.

These proposals will help the Council to provide suitable, safe and secure off street parking provision. In addition to having late access, and a security presence, it is anticipated that the introduction of a nominal parking charge will help manage demand and reduce the risk of over demand.

It is also anticipated that some vehicles currently parking on-street may choose to park in one of these car parks at a weekend instead. Therefore, it is also hoped that this proposal will help to increase turnover of on-street parking bays for those wanting shorter stay parking into the evening/night. It also aims to reduce the likelihood of nighttime workers and visitors, driving around the city, causing increased congestion, looking for parking bays that are both available and accessible throughout the night.

It is proposed to operate the 24-hour opening at weekends on a 6-month trial basis. If the trial is successful, consideration may also be given to extending to other nights of the week or other MSCPs. However, if unsuccessful, the Council may revert to the current operational arrangements.