



Castle House
Barracks Road
Newcastle-under-Lyme
Staffordshire
ST5 1BL

Our ref:

Your ref:

Date: 19th August 2021

Robert Jenrick
Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Dear Robert

I am writing to you today to request your support in respect of granting business rate relief on one of our car parks during the run up to Christmas.

As you will be aware the closure of almost all non-food retail venues, combined with a collapse in commuter road traffic has caused revenues at paid car parks to significantly reduce. Safe, accessible car parking is vital to our economy, and in addition enables users to maintain social distancing and help to minimise the spread of Covid-19 which on public transport is considerably more problematic.

As an authority we are currently working hard in supporting our local businesses to get back on their feet whilst ensuring the financial sustainability of the Council. A large proportion of our businesses situated within the town centre will be relying on revenue generated during the autumn months and Christmas period. We are currently reviewing our Car Parking Strategy and are proposing to offer shoppers using our main town car park known as the Midway Car Park, free parking between October 2021 and early January 2022. We feel that this will encourage shoppers to come back into town and support the businesses situated there.

Our request is for your agreement to grant business rate relief for this period of free car parking (October 2021 – January 2022) on our main town centre car park which has annual business rate of £96,810. Your support in our request will assist local businesses in their financial recovery, help get residents safely back into town and contribute to the Council's financial sustainability.

I would like to thank you for taking the time to review our request and look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours Sincerely

Cllr Stephen Sweeney
Deputy Leader of Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council and
Portfolio Holder – Finance, Town Centres and Growth