

Alternative Options and Arguments for and against the TRO approach

- 3.1 This option was identified following consideration of the following alternative approaches:
- 3.2 **Removing bays and relocating them within New Road** was not a valid option due to the lack of suitable alternative locations in New Road.
- 3.3 **Removing bays and relocating them outside New Road** could only be achieved at the cost of resident's parking bays. This would likely result in opposition from members of the public, whilst the relative benefit to users of the relocated Blue Badge bays would also likely to be limited: Blue Badge bays are generally provided for people who cannot easily walk further than 50 yards. Relocating bays into streets close to New Road would not necessarily provide the local access less mobile people require to reach destinations such as the Theatre Royal.
- 3.4 Prior to seeking the views of the wider public, including Blue Badge holders, there were arguments for and against retaining 4 bays in New Road. Arguments for retaining the bays include the fact that one of the drivers behind the reinvention of New Road was perceived shortcomings in terms of the street's accessibility, and during the design consultation process a strong desire had been expressed that the existing provision of four disabled parking bays in the street be maintained in the new design. This is one of the reasons that New Road was maintained as a 'shared' rather than pedestrian space. Arguments for removing a bay include the fact that since New Road was redesigned, additional provision had been created in surrounding streets (at the Library and in Regent Street), meaning that there has been a net increase in Disabled Parking bays in the surrounding area since the New Road consultation process identified the need for 4 bays in 2007. Blue Badge holders can also park for free in surrounding Pay and Display bays. However, it is debateable whether a parking bay in an adjacent street will provide all blue badge users with equivalent levels of access to destinations in New Road.

