

Our Ref.: RA/699

15 June 2017

Ms Trisha Jean-Marie
Planning Services
Bristol City Council

Dear Ms Jean-Marie,

Hippodrome Theatre, St Augustine's Parade, Bristol, BS1 4UZ

Application ref: 17/03025/LA

I write regarding the above listed building application to replace the stalls and grand circle seating and carpet. The Trust supports the application. Please see our statutory remit and advice are outlined below.

Remit: The Theatres Trust is the national advisory public body for theatres. We were established through the Theatres Trust Act 1976 'to promote the better protection of theatres' and provide statutory planning advice on theatre buildings and theatre use in England through The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015, requiring the Trust to be consulted by local authorities on planning applications which include 'development involving any land on which there is a theatre'.

Comment: The Theatres Trust actively encourages theatres owners and operators to invest and upgrade their venues to ensure they meet current building and safety standards, and to keep pace with the expectations and needs of modern audiences, staff, performers and producers to remain competitive and viable. The Trust therefore supports this proposal to replace the stalls and grand circle seating and carpet.

We are aware of the issues with the existing seating, in particular the number of seats where the tipping mechanism no longer works, meaning they are now considered a safety hazard in the event of an emergency evacuation as they block exit along the row. The seats are not original and also have other maintenance issues, and the replacement carpet and seats replicate the colours and designs of the existing fixtures, and will complement the carpets already replaced in the foyers.

Overall, the proposals will make a positive contribution to the appearance, safety and operation of the theatre and will help sustain and promote its special architectural and historic significance. We therefore recommend granting listed building consent.

This advice reflects guidance in Paragraph 70 of the NPPF which states that in 'promoting healthy communities', planning decisions should '*plan positively for cultural buildings*' and ensure that such facilities '*are able to develop and modernise in a way that is sustainable, and*

Theatres Trust

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retained for the benefit of the community'.

Please do contact us if we may be of further assistance.

Regards,



Ross Anthony
Planning Adviser