

Our Ref.:2269

14 November 2017

Steven Emery
Planning Services
Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council
Northgate
Halifax HX1 1UN

Dear Mr Emery,

The Victoria Theatre, Fountain Street, Halifax Calderdale HX1 1BP

Application Ref: 17/01300/LBC

I write regarding the above planning application for the installation of two de-stratification fans in the auditorium. The Theatres Trust supports the application. Please see our advice below.

Remit: The Theatres Trust is the national advisory public body for theatres. We champion the past, present and future of live theatre, by protecting the buildings and what goes on inside. 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 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'.

Advice: The Trust actively encourages the owners and operators of theatres and cultural venues to invest in their buildings to ensure they meet current building, access and safety standards, and the needs and expectations of the people who use the venue and the local community. The Trust therefore supports the proposed installation of two de-stratification fans in the auditorium to improve air circulation and audience comfort, as well as making the venue more environmentally sustainable.

While not ideal visually, we do recognise that the fans need to be located over the stalls to maximise the benefits of the increased air flow to the area where the majority of the audience sit. The use of the existing rigging points through the ceiling means that no physical alterations are needed to the historic building fabric and plaster ceiling of the auditorium, which is the area of most significance within this listed building. Being suspended from the trusses above the ceiling, they can also be removed, as needed.

Given the proposal will improve the environmental conditions within the theatre, as well as its long term energy costs with minimal physical impacts, the Trust would recommend granting

Theatres Trust

22 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0QL

T 020 7836 8591

F 020 7836 3302

E info@theatrestrust.org.uk

W theatrestrust.org.uk

Chair Tim Eyles **Director** Jon Morgan

Trustees Richard Baldwin, David Blyth, Pam Bone, Paul Cartwright, Paddy Dillon, Ruth Eastwood, David Ian, Richard Johnston, Gary Kemp, Dara Ó Briain, Simon Ricketts, Peter Roberts, Ann Skippers, Anna Stapleton

The National Advisory Public Body for Theatres

The Theatres Trust Charitable Fund co-operates with Theatres Trust, has the same Trustees and is registered as a charity under number 274697

listed building consent.

Please contact us if we may be of further assistance.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ross Anthony', written over a horizontal line.

Ross Anthony
Planning Consultant