

# Protecting theatres for everyone



Our Ref.:1065

15 November 2017

Michael Durkin  
Planning Services  
Manchester City Council  
Town Hall  
Manchester M60 2LA

Dear Mr Durkin,

**Contact Theatre, Devas Street, Hulme, Manchester, M15 6JA**

Application Ref: 117744/JO/2017

I write regarding the above planning application to vary condition no.6 (Approved drawings and documents) attached to planning permission ref 110440/FO/2015/C1 relating to alterations and extensions to the Contact Theatre. 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 Theatres Trust has no objections to this amended proposal. 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. We therefore support this revised proposal to alter and extend the front of house and support facilities at the Contact Theatre.

We note the revisions mainly rationalise the scale of the extension, including the design and materials of the external elevations and ventilation system, with a number of corresponding internal alterations to the proposed layout. Having assessed these changes, we concur with the rationale behind the alterations, and agree the revised proposal will continue to improve access; provide better front of house public spaces and circulation around the building; and support opportunities to expand the theatre's outreach programmes and use by the community.

## **Theatres Trust**

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**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

Overall, the renewed and additional facilities should have a positive impact on the future operation and financial sustainability of the theatre, and we recommend granting permission to this application.

Please contact us if we may be of further assistance.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ross Anthony', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Ross Anthony  
Planning Consultant