

Protecting theatres for **everyone**



Ref.: TC/180

07 March 2019

Ms L Lewis
Planning
115 Charles Street
Leicester
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By e-mail: planning@leicester.gov.uk

Application: PL/LL/20182727

Site: 23 DOVER STREET, THE ANCHOR CENTRE

Proposal: DEMOLITION OF EXISTING BUILDINGS (FORMER ANCHOR CENTRE) AND CONSTRUCTION OF 5 STOREY EXTENSION (20M TALL) TO SIDE OF THEATRE. TWO STOREY REAR EXTENSION. (SUI GENERIS)

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:

Thank you for consulting Theatres Trust on the above application. We are supportive of these proposals, which would result in an extension of the theatre. This will substantially expand the theatre's facilities and capabilities by providing a new studio theatre, rehearsal space/studios and meeting room. In addition both the extension and existing building will be made more accessible, there will be an enlarged foyer area and other facilities such as toilets and the café/bar will be expanded and improved. These works should help improve the sustainability of the theatre, and allow it to diversify its offer for example by offering greater potential to bring money in through external hires.

The Little Theatre is a community-orientated theatre with a strong local membership. It hosts both professional and amateur productions, and provides extensive opportunities for volunteering and participation in the arts. It is therefore an important facility for local people. Paragraph 92 of the NPPF (2019) seeks planning decisions to plan positively for community buildings and local services (which includes cultural buildings such as theatres), and to support delivery of improved cultural well-being. The need for this expansion has been clearly

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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

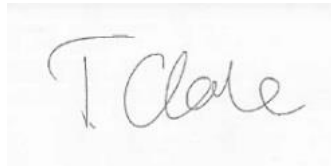
The Theatres Trust Charitable Fund co-operates with Theatres Trust, has the same Trustees and is registered as a charity under number 274697

articulated and it appears to be of appropriate scale for the theatre's aspirations.

In terms of design, we would just comment that a sound/light lock would be beneficial for the ground floor studio space given its proximity to the foyer and bar. There are acoustic walls to the studios on the first floor but this is not stated for the studio theatre; acoustic protection would be beneficial particularly as a result of potential disturbance from the toilets bounding the space. This also applies for acoustic flooring between the ground and first floor to prevent sound bleed from activities within the upstairs studios. However, these matters can be managed through refinement of the proposals and do not impact on our overall recommendation.

In conclusion **recommend the granting of planning permission**, as it will support the work of the theatre as a valued facility for Leicester which helps support the social and cultural well-being of local people.

Please contact us if we may be of further assistance.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'T Clarke', on a light-colored rectangular background.

Tom Clarke
National Planning Adviser