

Protecting theatres for everyone



Ref.: TC/2787

04 May 2022

Development Management
Civic Centre
Duke Street
Chelmsford
CM1 1JE

By e-mail: planning@chelmsford.gov.uk

Application: 22/00729/FUL

Site: Civic Theatre Civic Centre Theatres Fairfield Road Chelmsford Essex CM1 1JG

Proposal: Installation of aluminium cladding to front elevation of the civic theatre and part side elevation to the cramphorn theatre. Replacement bi-fold doors to replace existing doors. Alterations to existing fenestration and entrance canopy.

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 this application for planning permission at the Civic Theatre which seeks alterations to the building's front (south-east) elevation and a section of its south west elevation.

The Civic and Cramphorn Theatres are undergoing a programme of refurbishment and upgrading which will see them re-named as Chelmsford Theatre. We have supported a recent previous application for alterations to the Cramphorn part of the building part and alongside this letter we have also submitted comments in respect of a separate application for advertisement consent. We welcome the Council's commitment to and investment in its theatre which will significantly improve the audience experience and enhance the city's cultural provision. Paragraph 93 of the NPPF (2021) seeks planning decisions to plan positively for facilities of this nature.

This application covers external alterations including the addition of aluminium cladding over current brickwork to the front and side of the building, replacement entry doors and windows and

Theatres Trust

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Chair Dave Moutrey **Director** Jon Morgan

Trustees Paul Cartwright, James Dacre, Suba Das, Stephanie Hall, Annie Hampson, Richard Johnston, Gary Kemp, Lucy Osborne, Jane Spiers, Truda Spruyt, Katie Town

The National Advisory Public Body for Theatres

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

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refurbishment of the entry canopy.

These works are largely functional and help reflect the theatre's new branding. With regards to the cladding the method of fixing will need to be considered because this is a potentially reversible change; currently there is a trend towards installing such cladding but there may be appetite to remove it in future.

In conclusion we are supportive of this proposal and recommend the granting of planning permission.

Please contact us if we may be of further assistance or should you wish to discuss these comments further.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "T Clarke". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Tom Clarke MRTPI
National Planning Adviser

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