## Protecting theatres for **everyone**



Ref.: TC

02 September 2022

Development Management City Hall Bristol City Council PO Box 3176 Bristol BS3 9FS

By e-mail: <u>development.management@bristol.gov.uk</u>

Applications: 22/03924/P

Site: Broadwalk Shopping Centre Broad Walk Bristol BS4 2QU

**Proposal:** Application for Outline Planning Permission with some matters reserved - Demolition of existing buildings and erection of a mixed use scheme comprising residential units (Class C3), commercial floorspace (Class E), community use (flexible Class E/Class F2), library floorspace (Class F1), cinema/ theatre floorspace (Class sui generis), vehicle parking spaces, cycle parking, and associated landscaping, public realm, access and servicing arrangements, and circulation space. All matters reserved except for access. (Major)

#### Remit:

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:

This application has come to the attention of the Trust through press reports because it includes provision of a new theatre space. Presently there is no information on the design and form of the theatre other than indicative landuse marked on the proposed site plan and a sum of floorspace provision.

We welcome the principle of a theatre at this location which could further add to the availability and diversity of theatre provision across the city. As plans progress we would strongly encourage for the applicant to engage with the Trust and to identify an end user so that the space can be appropriately designed to meet their needs. Theatres require more specialist design with sufficient volume of space, ancillary provision, ventilation and service access to ensure their

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

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ongoing operational viability and sustainability. Without this the success of the space would be compromised.

We otherwise make no comment as to the acceptability of this scheme as a replacement development or to the overall scale and mix of proposed uses.

Tom Clarke MRTPI

National Planning Adviser

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