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Ref.: TC/439

05 July 2023

Ms Camilla Bebb
Lambeth Planning
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Winchester
SO23 5DG

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

Application: 23/02007/FUL & 23/01551/LB

Site: Brixton Academy 211 Stockwell Road London Lambeth SW9 9SL

Proposal: Installation of a tannoy system consisting of 20 speakers to the external elevations of the Brixton Academy

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:

These applications for planning permission and listed building consent have come to the attention of Theatres Trust because they are seeking alterations at Brixton Academy, specifically the external installation of speakers for a new tannoy system. They form part of a suite of applications for interventions at the venue to which we

Theatres Trust

22 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0QL

Telephone 020 7836 8591 **Email** info@theatrestrust.org.uk **Website** theatrestrust.org.uk **Twitter** @TheatresTrust

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Chair Dave Moutrey OBE

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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have commented under separate cover. The Academy has been closed since December 2022 after its licence was suspended.

The proposed speakers will be installed in various locations along the public-facing elevations of the building, including one to each column outside the main entrance, as well as along the north-west elevation within the service yard. These are for the purposes of important safety and security announcements. This will have some negative visual impact on the building, particularly on the more sensitive columns to the domed entry. However, with reference to paragraph 202 of the NPPF (2021) this harm is mitigated through the necessity to enhance public safety in and around the venue and to ensure the Academy is capable of being returned to active use. It can also be considered a reversible change.

In terms of amenity for nearby properties and occupants, the applicant has stated the speakers are not for general non safety/security use and this can be secured through condition if necessary.

We are therefore supportive of the granting of planning permission and listed building consent.

Please contact us if we may be of further assistance or should you wish to discuss this representation in greater detail.

Tom Clarke MRTPI

National Planning Adviser

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