

Protecting theatres
for **everyone**



Ref.: TC/1020

2 August 2023

Ms Laleeta Butoy
City of Wolverhampton Council
Planning, 2nd Floor
Civic Centre
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Wolverhampton
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By e-mail: planning@wolverhampton.gov.uk

Application: 23/00754/FUL & 23/00756/LBC

Site: Wolverhampton Grand Theatre Lichfield Street City Centre Wolverhampton
West Midlands WV1 1DE

Proposal: Installation of new boiler flue and installation of a louvred grill to existing window

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 the installation of a boiler

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

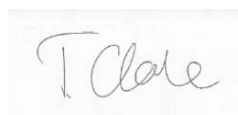
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flue and louvred grille to Wolverhampton Grand Theatre. We should have been directly notified of this proposal as it falls within our statutory remit outlined above.

From the description of works within the application form it appears that a new boiler flue will be installed alongside existing downpipes to the rear of the theatre's western elevation. This seems to be a replacement for an existing flue in the same location, which would be more sensitively treated. Alongside this will be the opening up of a side window to install a louvred grille to enable ventilation into what is a new boiler room.

We have no objections in principle to these interventions and it is likely we would be able to support the granting of planning permission and listed building consent. It is to be assumed the works are to facilitate new and potentially more efficient servicing to the theatre, and in heritage terms this is a less sensitive area of the building which has existing pipework. However, this is a Grade II* listed heritage asset. Paragraph 194 of the NPPF (2021) seeks local authorities to require applicants to describe the significance of heritage assets with a level of detail proportionate to importance and to understand the proposal. Paragraph 9 of guidance on the historic environment (2019) reiterates this. There is no Heritage Statement provided and the limited descriptions and images provided do not give clarity or outline any impact of the works, whether positive, neutral or negative. We recommend submission of an appropriate Heritage Statement to help explain and justify the works and to provide a reference in future should subsequent proposals come forward.

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



Tom Clarke MRTPI

National Planning Adviser

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