

Protecting theatres
for **everyone**



Ref.: TC/1841

14 December 2023

Planning Services
Leeds City Council
Merrion House
110 Merrion Centre
Leeds
LS2 8BB

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

Application: 23/04379/LI

Site: Grand Theatre 46 New Briggate Leeds LS1 6NU

Proposal: Listed Building Application for alterations to the balcony, dress and upper circle areas to remove old lighting bars and support framework and replace with new; associated works including repair and painting of ornate plaster features.

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:

Thank you for re-consulting Theatres Trust on this application for listed building consent. In our previous comments we stated that the proposed approach for the removal and replacement of lighting bars and supports with associated works to

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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plasterwork could be supported but that no Heritage Statement had been made available to justify and describe the works and their impacts.

A Heritage Statement has now been provided. This outlines the necessity for the replacement of the current lighting system, which is because it does not meet the loading requirements of modern systems or current regulations and standards. It also states that any damage will be made good, that a specialist heritage plasterer will be engaged and that new finishes and carpeting will match existing.

We support this approach. It is important that the theatre is able to continue to meet the needs of modern shows and audiences to ensure its ongoing operation and conservation. With reference to paragraph 202 of the NPPF (2023) this constitutes a public benefit which mitigates harm.

We are therefore now in a position to support the granting of 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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