

**The Theatres Trust**  
22 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0QL  
T 020 7836 8591 F 020 7836 3302  
info@theatrestrust.org.uk www.theatrestrust.org.uk

Our Ref.: 58

19 August 2010

For the attention of: Ms Lisa Clark

Carol Armstrong  
Senior Administrative Officer  
Newcastle City Council  
Civic Centre  
Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 8PD

Dear Ms Armstrong,

**Theatre Royal, 100 Grey Street, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 6BR**  
**Application number: 2010/0981/01/LBC**

Thank you for consulting The Theatres Trust on the above listed building application for internal alterations including the re-configuration of lobby kiosks; access ramp to stalls; insertion of additional seating, 4 boxes, sound and lighting booths to grand circle; new acoustic lobbies from bar to auditorium at upper circle; new lighting platform at amphitheatre level; new lighting gallery and insertion of raised floor and seating at gallery level; plus installation of lighting rails to balcony fronts and boxes; refurbishment of wc's; installation of replacement seating to all levels and general restoration works at the *Theatre Royal*, Newcastle. The Trust **supports** the application. Please see our detailed advice below and **suggested condition below**.

**Remit:** The Theatres Trust is The National Advisory Public Body for Theatres. The Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995, Article 10, Para (v) requires the Trust to be consulted on planning applications which include '*development involving any land on which there is a theatre.*' It was established by The Theatres Trust Act 1976 '*to promote the better protection of theatres.*' This applies to all theatre buildings. Our main objective is to safeguard theatre use, or the potential for such use, but we also provide expert advice on design, conservation, property and planning matters to theatre operators, local authorities and official bodies.

**Advice/comment:** The Trust supports the application in principle because it will provide better comfort, safety and amenity to theatregoers and the general public; and moreover, will not adversely harm the historic fabric of the building. The works adhere to CABI's '*Principles of inclusive design*' and will provide much needed and improved facilities including disabled access and toilets which are essential to upgrading the building to Part M standards. The proposed works and method of adaptation have been carefully considered within the Design and Access Statement and Heritage Intervention Justification submitted with the application. Much of the works will be to remove later additions of fitting-out that have no architectural significance, are in areas of little architectural significance or are lightweight and reversible in nature. Therefore the works proposed will not adversely harm the special architectural significance or historic value of the heritage asset. Indeed, in many cases, much of the works proposed will involve reinstating missing architectural features of interest such as the barrel-vaulted ceiling to the rear of the Stalls and the timber arcading to the Grand Circle and is to be welcomed.

...Continued....

## Protecting theatres for everyone

**Director** Mhora Samuel **Chairman** Rob Dickins CBE  
**Trustees** Jason Barnes, Phil Clark, Marilyn Cutts, Venu Dhupa, Tim Foster, Penelope Keith CBE DL,  
Dr Pauleen Lane CBE, Baroness McIntosh of Hudnall, Anne McReynolds, Matthew Rooke,  
Chris Shepley CBE, Sam Shrouder, Ben Twist

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



We are, however, concerned about the level of detail for the reinstatement of the proposed barrel-vaulted ceiling to the rear of the Stalls and are keen that this is as accurate as possible to the original design. In the circumstances, the Trust would **request that you attach the following condition:**

**Condition:** No demolition within the rear of the Stalls area shall take place until the applicant has submitted additional drawings at scale 1:20 of the reinstated internal plasterwork pertaining to the barrel-vaulted ceiling and semi-circular ends to the rear of the Stalls at the *Theatre Royal* which shall be submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the local planning authority in consultation with The Theatres Trust.

**Reason:** To ensure that the reinstated plasterwork sections will be adequately and accurately detailed to replicate the lost original historic fabric to preserve the architectural significance and historic value of the listed theatre.

To summarise: The proposed works have been sympathetically designed and considered within the context of the heritage asset. They do not detract from or adversely harm its special architectural significance or historic value. The Theatres Trust would therefore **urge you to grant Listed Building Consent and attach our suggested condition.**

Please do not hesitate to contact us if we may be of further assistance.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MJP', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark J Price, MRTPI, IHBC  
Planning and Heritage Adviser