

Our Ref.: MP/68

25 August 2010

For the attention of: Mr Dean Watson
Mr Keith Lowes
Head of Planning and Environment
Sunderland City Council
Office of the Chief Executive
PO Box 102, Civic Centre
Sunderland SR2 7DN

Dear Mr Lowes,

Sunderland Empire Theatre, High Street West, Sunderland SR1 3EX
Application number: 10/02531/LBC

Thank you for consulting The Theatres Trust on the above listed building application for the repositioning and replacement of the damaged dock door to the rear of the *Sunderland Empire*. The Trust **supports** the application. Please see our detailed advice 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 is entirely necessary for the proper functioning of the theatre. We are keen to help theatre owners do more to improve, adapt and sustain their building stock. The existing dock door is of no special architectural or historic significance and a like-for-like replacement was not possible because it is no longer manufactured. The proposed replacement has been carefully chosen in order to provide a 13 meter and an unimpeded opening for loading and unloading of pantechincons. Although a bulkier design, we understand that it is the only solution for a replacement that could be found. Furthermore, in our opinion, it will not adversely harm the significance or historic value of the heritage asset. We would therefore **urge you to grant Listed Building Consent.**

Yours sincerely,



Mark J Price MRTPI, IHBC
Planning and Heritage Adviser

cc Mr Andrew Rawlinson, Sunderland Empire Theatre

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