

Protecting theatres
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Ref.: TC/1841

09 August 2023

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

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

Application: 23/04380/LI

Site: Grand Theatre 46 New Briggate Leeds LS1 6NU

Proposal: Listed Building Application for installation of new delay bars and advanced delay trusses to front of house, stall, dress and upper circle areas with associated mounting rails, chain hoists and support works.

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:

This application for listed building consent has come to the attention of Theatres Trust because it is seeking to install new delay bars and trusses within the auditorium at Leeds Grand, along with supporting infrastructure. It is one of a number of

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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applications which have been submitted associated with a programme of maintenance and upgrading of the theatre.

The need for these works is so that current standards as set out in the Technical Standards for the Places of Entertainment ('yellow book') can be met. It will be achieved through installing new mounting rails at each level within the auditorium below the circle soffits, installing new steel hangers with chain hoists within the roof void, and installing new top hats into the auditorium ceiling to allow the steel tie wires to pass through to support the trusses, and 120mm core holes to be cut through plaster and timber ceiling joists.

It is stated that finishes are to be made good with materials and paintwork to match existing. Images have been provided which show the locations of these interventions. Whilst this proposal will create some harm and interruption of the significant auditorium, it is important that the theatre is able to meet the needs of audiences and producers and meet current standards. In the case of the roof void the harm in this area is minimised through re-use of existing holes through the plaster ceiling. However, the proposed plans also show there to be new holes through the plaster with 'top hat' details. It is not clear exactly where these insertions will be made and whether harm to the most significant and decorative elements will be avoided. We recommend this is clarified through an improved Heritage Statement and/or submission of additional plans.

Subject to clarification of the above, we raise no objection to 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "T Clarke".

Tom Clarke MRTPI
National Planning Adviser

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