

Ref.: TC/1922

9 August 2024

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By e-mail: [planning@liverpool.gov.uk](mailto:planning@liverpool.gov.uk)

**Application:** 24L/1888

**Site:** Empire Theatre, 11 Lime Street, Liverpool, L1 1JE

**Proposal:** To undertake repair and redecoration works to the front elevation including cleaning and repairs to stonework, canopy, windows and doors.

## **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 carry out repairs, redecoration and maintenance to the front elevation of the Empire Theatre.

### **Theatres Trust**

22 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0QL

**Telephone** 020 7836 8591 **Email** [info@theatrestrust.org.uk](mailto:info@theatrestrust.org.uk) **Website** [theatrestrust.org.uk](http://theatrestrust.org.uk) **Twitter** @TheatresTrust

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**Chair** Dave Moutrey OBE

**Director** Jon Morgan

**Trustees** Vicky Browning OBE, Anna Collins, James Dacre, Suba Das, Liam Evans-Ford, Stephanie Hall, Annie Hampson, Tracy Ann Oberman, Lucy Osborne, Saratha Rajeswaran, Truda Spruyt, Michèle Taylor MBE, Katie Town

The Theatres Trust is the national advisory public body for theatres. The Theatres Trust Charitable Fund supports the work of The Theatres Trust, has the same Trustees and is registered as a charity under number 274697

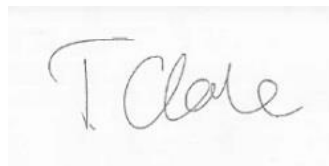
There is no Heritage Statement submitted with the application, but a condition/inspection report has been made available. This sets out items requiring attention with a prioritisation rating based on need and risk. The report identified some corrosion, cracking of stonework, loose pointing, damaged sealant and damaged rainwater goods. There are itemised descriptions of individual elements with photographs.

We welcome that the theatre's operator is investing in the building's ongoing maintenance and conservation. There is a broad methodology outlined on the proposed plan which we support, and annotations suggest any repairs are effectively on a like-for-like basis which means the building's character and significance would not be impacted.

The methodology notes there is to be testing of stone and masonry cleaning to ensure no damage. In common with similar proposals at other theatres we urge that such works are undertaken by experienced specialist contractors and this is made a condition of listed building consent should it be granted.

The Empire is a significant theatre and heritage asset for Liverpool and these works will help ensure its ongoing conservation. We therefore 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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