

Ref.: TC/1667

24 December 2024

Development Management
City Development
Sunderland City Council
PO Box 102
Civic Centre
Sunderland
SR2 7DN

By e-mail: dc@sunderland.gov.uk

Application: 24/02383/LB4

Site: Sunderland Empire Theatre Empire Theatre High Street West Sunderland SR1 3EX

Proposal: Replacement of existing fire alarm system, including the installation of new ceiling mounted devices in the building's auditorium area.

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 consulting Theatres Trust on this application for listed building consent at Sunderland Empire. It seeks to replace the theatre's fire detection systems to bring

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 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

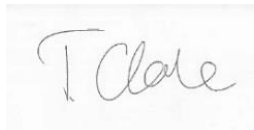
The Theatres Trust is the national advisory public body for theatres. The Theatres Trust Charitable Fund supports the work of The Theatres Trust, has the same Trustees and is registered as a charity under number 274697

them up-to-date and ensure they remain fully functioning.

There is a clear public benefit in ensuring the safety of the theatre's users and also of the building itself, helping to protect and conserve this important Grade II* listed heritage asset. A number of interventions related to this are on a like-for-like basis in terms of positioning, although we note there was an original iteration to which the council's Conservation Officer raised some concerns due to positioning in proximity to sensitive features and plasterwork. Suggestions for alternatives were put forward.

The current plans have addressed those comments and minimised harm from a heritage perspective. We concur that current proposals are acceptable and we can 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

Theatres Trust

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