

Our Ref.: RF/4064

Sites and Policies Part 1

Thank you for your emails of 30 January and reminder of 2 March consulting The Theatres Trust on the Sites and Policies Strategy Development Plan Document.

The Theatres Trust is The National Advisory Public Body for Theatres. The Theatres Trust Act 1976 states that *'The Theatres Trust exists to promote the better protection of theatres.* It currently delivers statutory planning advice on theatre buildings and theatre use through the Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) (England) Order 2010 (DMPO), Articles 16 & 17, Schedule 5, para.(w) that requires the Trust to be consulted by local authorities on planning applications which include *'development involving any land on which there is a theatre.'*

We support Policy DM R6 Culture, Arts and Tourism, as it will protect and enhance the Borough's theatres. However, there is a slight overlap with Policy DM R5 Food and Drink/Leisure and Entertainment Uses, as theatres are very much part of your evening economy, as well as being a cultural asset, although they do not belong within the D2 Use Class and are therefore excluded from this policy.

We support the protection of public houses within Policy DM R5 as these can be transformed as additional venues to provide a range of smaller performance spaces, from new plays and dance to live music and comedy which make a vibrant contribution to the evening economy.

Support of culture activities is increasingly seen as an investment in an area's present and future quality of life. There is a growing awareness of the role that the arts and culture play in developing an educated workforce and, on the other hand, in attracting an educated workforce to the Borough. The quality of life that communities provide will become an increasingly important element in attracting residents.

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