

Our Ref.: RF/3591

## **Core Strategy Minor Changes**

Thank you for your email of 4 May consulting The Theatres Trust on minor changes to the Core Strategy and the implications for the Core Strategy of the Ministerial Statement in March.

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.*'

Due to the specific nature of the Trust's remit we are concerned with the protection and promotion of theatres and therefore anticipate policies relating to cultural facilities.

## **Policy SP15 Culture and Leisure**

Ref.: 26/72/7.2

We note and support the amendments to the wording of items 2 and 3 of this policy. However, the Schedule states these are bullet points. To avoid confusion and for clarity we suggest the Schedule is amended as it is the items that have been re-worded not any bullet points.

## **The Plan for Growth**

The ministerial statement by Greg Clark and the budget proposals are not, as yet, national policy and at the present time 'growth' matters are not specified in any national planning policy other than PPS4 which should be referred to regarding positivity towards all applications that 'secure sustainable economic growth'. However 'The Plan for Growth' should not be at the expense of other equally important considerations such as heritage-led regeneration and infrastructural improvements to promote sustainable access to key services and facilities in town centres which contribute significantly to the overall quality of life and wellbeing of residents. The 'soundness' of any Core Strategy should not be affected by Greg Clark's statement provided the document is legally compliant, justified, effective and consistent with national policy.

While goals to achieve sustainable economic growth and jobs are already contained in most local plans across the country, the ministerial statement is giving them much more priority. Some commentators have suggested that the Chancellor's moves in the recent Budget to dismantle parts of the planning system to boost economic growth may undermine the localism agenda. This could put local councillors on planning committees in a dilemma particularly if faced with a development that is opposed by local groups but would result in jobs and growth. However, these issues should not affect the soundness of the Core Strategy.

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