

# Protecting theatres for everyone



Ref.: TC

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Neighbourhood Planning  
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## **Soho Neighbourhood Plan**

Thank you for consulting Theatres Trust on the submission version of the above document. Our comments are set out below.

### **Remit:**

The 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:**

The Soho Neighbourhood Plan covers an area which is of importance culturally, recognised not just locally but around the world. The plan boundary includes a number of large 'West End' theatres as well as smaller venues such as Soho Theatre and Boulevard Theatre and renowned music venues such as Ronny Scott's. The plan is therefore of great interest to the Trust.

### Policy 4 – Mixed Use Developments

The Trust welcomes and supports the strong emphasis afforded to employing and respecting the Agent of Change principle in planning decisions. Soho is by its nature a mixed-use environment and cultural and noise-generating venues are an important element of Soho's character and a fundamental attractor of people and businesses to the area. It is essential these are protected by new development, not undermined. We consider this policy effectively translates national NPPF policy (paragraph 182) into the local context and support its inclusion in the plan.

### Policy 10 – Providing Accommodation for the Creative Industries

Again, the Trust is supportive of this policy. There is a general lack of space and issues of

#### **Theatres Trust**

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**Chair** Tim Eyles **Director** Jon Morgan

**Trustees** Richard Baldwin, David Blyth, Pam Bone, Paul Cartwright, Paddy Dillon, David Ian, Richard Johnston, Gary Kemp, Simon Ricketts, Truda Spruyt

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

## Protecting theatres for **everyone**



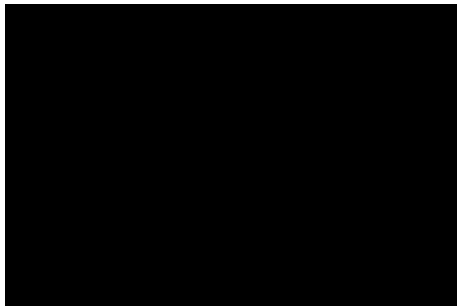
affordability not just locally but across London for the creative industries. This issue is critical in the context of the creation of culture as a product contributing significantly to the economy. The support and protection of this sector in the plan is welcomed.

### Policy 12: Live Music Venues

As the plan notes, the Soho area has lost music venues including within the last few years. We welcome and support the plan's protection for these important cultural assets.

In conclusion we are highly supportive of the Soho Neighbourhood Plan and the support and protection it offers its theatres and other cultural venues and uses. We consider the plan meets the 'Basic Conditions' required.

Please contact us should you wish to discuss this representation further.



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