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To: Programme Officer
Cc: Edwards, Andrea
Subject: 2011 Budget Statement

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2011 Budget Statement

Thank you for your email of 4 April consulting The Theatres Trust on the implications for the Core Strategy of the Ministerial Statement of 23 March and the Budget Statement.

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.'*

The Core Strategy should identify the key, strategic issues of most importance to the local area and translate these into a strategy for tackling them by setting out the policy framework against which planning applications are assessed. Planning policies and their implementation must facilitate economic investment and growth of which the finer details and good practice will be covered by other DPDs and SPDs and therefore 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.

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 'Planning 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.

We take this opportunity to highlight that theatres are businesses and employment generators in their own right and deserve to be included in town centre plans where innovative and cultural venues can be helped to flourish. They are sources of direct and indirect employment through not just performers but scene builders, programme printers, costume makers, catering supplies etc and as such play a major part in the evening economy of town centres.

The Theatres Trust appreciates that the LDF process has been far more inclusive than the old Local Plan system as there has been more opportunities to become involved at community and district level and we welcome this opportunity to further awareness of theatres in the UK. The recent statements do not affect our representation on the Trafford Core Strategy.

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