

Chris Banks

From: Rose Freeman [rose.freeman@theatrestrust.org.uk]
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To: Chris Banks
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**Bath & North East Somerset Council
NPPF Implications for the Core Strategy**

Thank you for your email of 2 April consulting The Theatres Trust on our views of the implications that the newly published National Planning Policy Framework might have on the Core Strategy Development Plan Document, currently under Examination.

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 new NPPF states at item 70 that to deliver the social, recreational and cultural facilities and services that the community needs, planning policies and decisions should plan for the use of shared space and guard against the unnecessary loss of valued facilities. Also to ensure that established facilities and services are retained and able to develop for the benefit of the community.

With regard to the above, as the city centre is the proper location for the area's main entertainment and tourist venues, there should be an item in Section 2 of Policy B2 to maintain and enhance existing 'cultural assets' or entertainment venues etc. The Council should value its performance spaces through the Core Strategy as major contributors to the urban landscape of the city centre and to its vibrant evening economy, and to reflect one of the 12 Core Planning Principles of the NPPF at item 17 to take account of and support local strategies to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all, and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs.

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