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South Wiltshire Core Strategy Examination

Thank you for your letter of 11 January consulting The Theatres Trust on the Main Matters and Issues of the Examination into the South Wiltshire Core Strategy.

The Theatres Trust is the National Advisory Public Body for Theatres and a Statutory Consultee. The Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995, Article 10, Para (v) requires the Trust to be consulted on planning applications which include 'development involving any land on which there is a theatre.' It was established by The Theatres Trust Act 1976 and The Theatres Trust (Scotland) Act 1978 'to promote the better protection of theatres'. This applies to all buildings that were either built as theatres or are used for theatre presentations, in current use, in other uses, or disused.

Matter 10 Core Policy 7 Retail

We requested clarity regarding the 'improved cultural area' that is proposed around the Playhouse Theatre. In this respect this aspect of the policy lacks detail rather than being 'prescriptive'. The first sentence header for the bullet points on page 79 containing this matter refers to 40ksqm of retail floorspace and we do not understand how this and the other bullet points relate to the use of this potential retail floorspace.

Our previous comment in September 2009 was :

Core Policy 7 states on page 79 that there will be an improved cultural area around the Playhouse Theatre as part of the Maltings development but the document does not describe what form these improvements will take. Paragraph 6.18 states that there will be improved cultural facilities but there is no guidance as to what this means. For succinctness and clarity much of the detail of this particular policy and some others should be contained within a Masterplan or SPD for Salisbury City Centre so that the Core Strategy only provides the broad principles and parameters.

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