

Our Ref.: RF/3811

# National Planning Policy Framework

Thank you for your email of 9 September consulting The Theatres Trust on the implications for the Core Strategy of the draft NPPF with specific reference to sustainable development.

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 we have no specific comment to make on the implications of the new NPPF on the Core Strategy as, in our opinion, the draft NPPF currently lacks adequate guidance and is a policy vacuum for arts and cultural facilities especially the absence of a town's evening economy (PPS4). Social wellbeing is the third pillar of sustainable development and we consider that cultural facilities, in their broadest sense, contribute considerably to people's wellbeing.

But, as the NPPF has no reference to cultural facilities and the Rochford Core Strategy has no policies to support any cultural activities, town centre vitality or the evening economy to reflect PPS4, we are unfortunately not in a position to argue for their inclusion.

Rose Freeman

Planning Policy Officer

The Theatres Trust