



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Our ref: PO/sf18

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6 June 2018

Dear Steering Group Members,

Redevelopment of Theatr Clwyd

Thank you for meeting with me and my colleague Jason Thomas at the Theatre on 8 May, to discuss the prospective capital redevelopment of the Theatr Clwyd complex.

The Welsh Government recognises the centrality of Theatr Clwyd to the cultural sector in North Wales, and to Wales as a whole. Lord Elis-Thomas AM, the Minister for Culture, Tourism and Sport has asked me to stress this to you, following his recent visit.

The Welsh Government shares the confidence of the Arts Council of Wales that Theatr Clwyd performs highly in meeting its artistic and business objectives under a renewed operating model and business plan, and under a new executive leadership. As the Cabinet Secretary, Ken Skates AM said in his letter to Colin Everett last September, in responding to the request that the capital redevelopment project is recognised as a strategically important project: "*this is a high priority for the Welsh Government and for the Arts Council of Wales*". This letter invites further work, in partnership, to secure the long-term sustainability of this important facility.

In his letter the Cabinet Secretary also references the difficult financial climate in which the Welsh Government and local authorities are operating. A capital



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redevelopment of this scale is a very significant undertaking. It is essential that decisions for potential Government funding are based on rigorous feasibility studies.

Therefore, we would encourage Flintshire County Council, working closely with Arts Council of Wales to progress to the next stage of the project beyond feasibility and into design and development detail study.


We note that the specification for the redeveloped arts complex meets an ambitious and sustainable operating model set for the Theatre for the future. We would still encourage the Theatre and the Council to critically examine the cost base of the project through options and choices on value engineering, and to creatively explore the options for commercialisation and supported borrowing, to augment the lottery funding allocation being held in reserve by the Arts Council and to avoid an over-reliance on the Welsh Government to fund the balance of the total scheme cost.

We would also encourage you to ensure that the project addresses concerns raised during the recent consultation, for example the adequacy of the car parking arrangements.

We would encourage the local partnership of the Theatre and Council to follow this advice with the confidence that the capital redevelopment project will be given serious consideration for national funding, with an eventual decision, to be informed by the feasibility detailed design and development work study, subject to the availability of capital funds.

We can offer to provide professional input to the work of the Steering Group over this next stage of feasibility study work, to assist in finding solutions towards the future of this nationally significant arts venue.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Owen', followed by a vertical green line.

Peter Owen
Head of Arts Policy Branch

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