



PRESS RELEASE

90% of survey respondents see Derby Hippodrome as a new theatre for the city

Results from the survey published today carried out by Lathams Architects and PHT consultants on behalf of Derby Hippodrome Restoration Trust show that the majority of Derby residents who responded want the Hippodrome to be restored as a fully working theatre.

The survey, carried out as part of the Options Appraisal funded by the Architectural Heritage Fund and Derby City Council, considered all possible options for the building, mindful of the guidelines for heritage buildings, and taking on board the importance of the 1914 Grade II listed building, its subsequent history and its situation today. City stakeholders and national bodies were also consulted, and whilst the report is an honest and thorough appraisal, including the drawbacks and problems involved, the outcome weighs heavily in favour of restoration as some form of theatre space, with public and architectural preference for a full –size theatre with around 1000 seats. The business case supports this.

The Chair of the DHRT, Joan Travis, said “It is heart-warming that the overwhelming majority of the people surveyed support the restoration of the theatre and 95% of those made offers to help or be kept informed. It confirms that the people of Derby really would support the restored Hippodrome. The report spells out the need for the project to be taken into the overall city plan for culture, and to be encouraged by the City Council.” She added, “Other studies have shown that theatres are strong contributors to both the social and economic well-being of a community. The City Council should feel confident in helping the Trust to acquire the building now that this professional appraisal has produced a strong case for the restoration of the theatre. What’s more, elections are looming; now is the time for the local voters to lobby their future councillors to take a positive stand on the future of theatre – and the Hippodrome – in Derby.”

Note to Editors: The full text of the Options Appraisal is available here:

<http://derbyhippodrome.co.uk/resources/Options-Appraisal-Report-17.04.12.pdf>