

**QUESTION BY MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC**

**Question submitted by:** Mr Bridgeman

**To the Cabinet Member or Chair for:** Strategic Planning and Infrastructure

**Question (to be no longer than 50 words):**

The Joint Local Plan calls for a high-quality restoration of the Palace Theatre. Potential investors are unwilling to buy the Palace and adjoining Great Western Hotel unless they know that their proposed uses will be approved. For what specific purposes will the Council allow these buildings to be used?

**Response:** (for completion by City Council officers and Cabinet Members / Chairs)

The acceptability of any development proposal can only be determined through the formal planning process (planning application). The Local Planning Authority does however provide a comprehensive pre-application planning service to enable prospective purchasers and/or developers to obtain informal advice about the likely acceptability of proposals prior to submitting a formal application. Pre-application services can be tailored to the customer's needs. It is strongly recommended that any prospective purchaser and/or developer contacts the Local Planning Authority to obtain such advice.

The Palace Theatre is a Grade II\* Listed Building situated in Union Street Conservation Area. Union Street benefits from a specific policy in the Joint Local Plan (Policy PLY34) which includes specific reference to the Palace Theatre. The policy states:

*The role of Union Street will be promoted as an urban street connecting the west of the city and linking the communities of north and south of Stonehouse. It will provide a mix of uses along its length, with high quality building design and associated public realm improvements. Development proposals should provide for:*

*Section 4(ii) 'A high quality restoration of the Palace Theatre, appropriate to the special architectural and historic character of the building that provides daytime as well as nighttime activity'.*

Policy PLY34 and other relevant policies in the JLP provide a framework within which a broad range of uses may be considered for the Palace Theatre having regard to the heritage value of the building/conservation area, impact on local amenity and impact on local centres.