



Mr David Carter  
Divisional Director – Strategic Development  
Torbay Council  
Town Hall  
Castle Circus  
Torquay  
TQ1 3DR

14 October 2024

Dear David

### **PAIGNTON PICTURE HOUSE TRUST REQUEST TO TORBAY COUNCIL**

Following our focused discussions in the past fortnight, I am writing to request that:

- Torbay Council underwrite the funding shortfall on the capital project to enable the full funding package for these works to be unlocked, in particular the DCMS/Arts Council England Cultural Development Fund
- Torbay Council take on the capital cost risk for the capital project.

As you are aware at the end of 2023, the Trust and our professional consultancy team believed that the majority of funding was in place to take forward the capital project in full. However, on receipt of tenders and largely due to inflationary pressures, a funding gap opened up on the project.

Given the time pressures to spend current secured grants, and the fact that Arts Council England needs to see evidence that the capital project is fully funded before they can release their grant to Torbay Council, the Trust do not have sufficient time to raise the funds required without causing detrimental delay to the project as a whole. The Trust has developed a fundraising plan to endeavour to raise the remaining funds over the next 16 months, however, we will not be able secure these prior to Arts Council England's deadline.

Since the award of the Cultural Development Fund, the Trust has been in a collaborative partnership with the Council, with the Trust leading on the delivery of the capital project. The Trust has widespread community support for the restoration and reopening of the Picture House, and has high ambitions to deliver an exemplary town centre regeneration scheme. We look forward to continuing to work with the Council to publicly demonstrate how complex heritage assets can be brought back into use through joint partnership working.

We look forward to agreeing the mechanisms by which this partnership will work over the coming weeks, with the aim that the capital project goes on sight at the start of January 2025.

Yours sincerely

  
Paul Hawthorne  
Chair  
Paignton Picture House Trust