

## Comments/additional information r.e. St David's Hall

### 1. St David's Hall is in the process of becoming a listed building.

CADW undertook a site visit of St David's Hall on the morning of the 26<sup>th</sup> January, with the site inspection report due to be written up in due course and a decision made regarding suitability for listing, followed by the statutory listed building consultation notice if the decision to list is made. Given that St David's Hall is the approximately the same age and architectural style as buildings such as the national theatre (Brutalist), which is grade 2\*, and that St David's Hall has been largely unaltered since opening in 1982, I can see no reason speaking as an Architectural Technologist and Town Planner with a specialism in historic architecture why St David's hall would not become a listed building in due course- and that process which was instigated should be allowed to be seen through before any proposed alterations to the building are allowed to go ahead (such as removal of the stalls seating, etc) or in turn the building taken from local authority control prior to the completion of this process.

### 2. Concerns regarding Live Nation/AMG's safety record.

Live Nation/ AMG are the owner operators of a number of venues internationally, notably in the UK of Brixton Academy where on the 15<sup>th</sup> December a crush occurred resulting in the deaths of 2 people and multiple injured. It has been heavily implied by the metropolitan police in the press that the ongoing investigation will result in criminal charges being brought against AMG. This is not the first incident in a AMG/Live Nation venue; In 2012, at a Radiohead gig in Toronto, thousands of pounds of steel rigging crashed onto the main stage killing the bands technician, 33yr old Scott Johnson- resulting in charges being brought against Live Nation. And investigation by the Houston Chronicle found that Live Nation have been linked to 750 injuries and at least 250 deaths at their events in the USA, following a crush in November 2021 at the astroworld festival which killed 10 people- including a 9yr old boy.

Given this, and the fact that St David's Hall was designed for a capacity of 2,000 patrons, the stated desire to increase the capacity of St David's Hall to 2,500 due to the removal of stalls seating and creation of a standing area, and the repeatedly stated comment that "no structural alterations will be made to the building", how can the safety of patrons be guaranteed during operation or in the event of an emergency given that stairways, escape exits and such will not be altered (as stated by Cardiff Council through guarantees that structural elements will not be altered)- what guarantees can be given that a repeat of the tragic events in Brixton and other venues will not occur in the National Concert Hall of Wales? What policies have changed within AMG since the incident in Brixton?

### 3. Alternative operational models

Has it been evidenced by Cardiff Council that a full investigation of alternative funding or operational models have been investigated? Why was the offer of Capital funding during the last funding cycle (which was then received by theatre Clwyd) from Arts Council Wales not acted upon? Why have these alternative models not been acted upon?

For example, where St David's Hall to be operated by a trust funded by Cardiff Council, Cultural exemption on ticket sales would mean that VAT would not be payable on tickets for events in St David's Hall- resulting in a boost of income of approximately £1,000,000.00 p/a, taking St David's from being approx. £400,000 in the red to £600,000 in profit per year- which when linked with funding bids from bodies such as Arts Council Wales and others could result in significant financial investment into St David's Hall as a separate/independent entity without the need to change anything about the venue in its current format.

It works for the WMC- for Theatr Clwyd- It would work for St David's Hall, given its international reputation and standing.

### 4. Live Nation/AMG

The question needs to be asked as to what exactly Live Nation stand to gain from the various deals within the city. They are being presented as a 'knight in shining armour', but with the proposed arena in ButeTown already £100,000,000.00 over budget (standing at a predicted total cost of £270 million before construction has commenced), and council figures taken at face value St David's Hall needing £50,000,000.00 of investment- on top of a lease agreement costing £15,000,000.00- Live Nation as a company stand to invest £335,000,000.00 into Cardiff without perceivably gaining anything. Live Nation/AMG would not be in the position they are internationally if they sought to act to 'save venues' and act charitably for city councils facing austerity.

(the figure of £50 million of investment is still strongly disputed, however it is being used in this context to demonstrate the holes in the councils proposals)