

**OBJECTION to the Kirklees Cultural Heart Planning Application ref:  
2022/48/93248/W**

With regret, TUC Yorkshire & the Humber Creative and Leisure Industries Committee (TUC YH CLIC) submits this objection to the Kirklees Cultural Heart Planning Application and requests that the following is taken into consideration in determining this planning application.

1. Kirklees Council has declared a Climate Emergency. The aim of this is to work towards a Net Zero goal on such emissions. TUC YH CLIC believes that the implementation of this declaration must fully extend to planning and development control in Kirklees. Refurbishing existing buildings generates substantially less carbon emissions than demolition and redevelopment and should therefore be the preferred option. We have been informed that the condition of the Piazza Centre is such that refurbishment of the centre is a viable option on building grounds. This planning application is to demolish the Piazza Centre and redevelop the site and we oppose this aspect of the proposals on Climate Change amongst other grounds. Elsewhere, this planning application proposes the refurbishment of existing buildings and we can see no valid reasons why the same approach should not be taken over the Piazza Centre. We draw attention to page 47 of RIBA Stage 2 Summary Report for Kirklees Cultural Heart, which includes the following: *"Pathway to Net Zero The following list outlines the possible methods (from greatest to smallest impact) that structural embodied carbon can be limited. These are therefore the design principles which have been considered on the Cultural Heart in order to limit carbon emissions. 1. Re-use as much existing structure as possible ..."*. TUC YH CLIC asserts that the Piazza Centre can be re-used and should be re-used.

2. As a result of this development Huddersfield is losing its indoor market and there are no plans to replace this. While we acknowledge that Huddersfield will retain its covered outdoor market, we oppose this significant loss of retail facilities that are accessible to people on low incomes.

3. While we are not opposed to the principle of a new museum as part of the Cultural Heart proposals, we are alarmed at the lack of information as to how the proposed new museum will work alongside the existing Tolson Museum nearby, or whether it will end up replacing that museum.

4. The Piazza Arts Centre has become a popular, vibrant, diverse and hugely successful Centre. Demolishing the Piazza Centre combined with at best piecemeal relocations would lead to a great loss of workplaces and amenity. Given this as well as the Climate Emergency considerations in paragraph 1 above, TUC YH CLIC believes that the Kirklees Cultural Heart Plans should be amended to retain and refurbish the Piazza Arts Centre in genuine partnership with Arts Centre users. Consideration should be given to making the Piazza Arts Centre the subject of a Community Asset Transfer. Should such a transfer be a viable option, Kirklees Council is urged to adopt a community development approach to help the Arts Centre establish the necessary organisational and business plan development that such a Community Asset Transfer would necessitate.

November 2022