

Lab Group Amendment to Liberal Democrat Motion

Moved by: Cllr Arooj Shah

Seconded by: Cllr Peter Dean

Delete **was**

Insert **is**

Delete **home signifies a serious failure by all parties involved, with**

Insert **on the back of**

Delete **. – and the failure to secure the long-term future of the site, despite missed opportunities linked with town centre regeneration projects.**

Insert **was regrettable**

Delete **; and keep it on Fairbottom Street where it belongs.**

Delete **despite the then leadership of this Council publicly stating otherwise,**

After “Examine the feasibility of refurbishing and investing into the Fairbottom Street building” insert **alongside the current option to create a long-term home for a producing theatre in the Borough.**

Before “Explore funding streams” insert **Continue to**

After “Bring a report to cabinet as soon as possible outlining the steps that this Council” insert **“is taking”**

After “to support the Oldham Coliseum Theatre to” insert **“retain a producing theatre in the borough including the potential option to”**

This Council believes:

Oldham Coliseum Theatre **was is** a treasured local asset that has drawn audiences from across the country to Fairbottom Street for more than 135 years. Its productions have put Oldham on the map and brought acclaim from across the UK’s arts and culture sector.

For many years, the Coliseum has been one of only a handful of producing theatres outside of London, providing a platform for the development of new work. The closure of its Fairbottom Street ~~home signifies a serious failure by all parties involved, with~~ **on the back of** the withdrawal of ACE funding **was regrettable.** ~~—and the failure to secure the long-term future of the site, despite missed opportunities linked with town centre regeneration projects.~~

This Council notes that:

Since the Coliseum announced that it would close in March 2023, the public support for the Theatre has been phenomenal. Oldham residents, theatregoers from across the country, as well as some of the biggest names in UK performing arts are united by a desire to resolve the difficulties facing the Oldham Coliseum. ~~; and keep it on Fairbottom Street where it belongs.~~

In September 2023, ~~despite the then leadership of this Council publicly stating otherwise,~~ a study commissioned by the Coliseum Board concluded that the Fairbottom Street building is not beyond repair and could be used again and brought up to a modern standard with the appropriate investment. Investing in the Fairbottom building could be a much more cost-effective proposal freeing up millions for other projects and much needed regeneration.

This Council resolves to:

1. Examine the feasibility of refurbishing and investing into the Fairbottom Street building **alongside the current option to create a long-term home for a producing theatre in the Borough.**
2. **Continue to** Explore funding streams that could help finance the redevelopment of the existing venue, including the reallocation of funds from other initiatives linked with the future of Oldham Coliseum.
3. Bring a report to cabinet as soon as possible outlining the steps that this Council **is taking** to support the Oldham Coliseum Theatre to **retain a producing theatre in the borough including the potential option to** remain at home, on Fairbottom Street, which would also help regenerate that part of Oldham town centre and Yorkshire Street.

Amended Motion to read:

This Council believes:

Oldham Coliseum Theatre is a treasured local asset that has drawn audiences from across the country to Fairbottom Street for more than 135 years. Its productions have put Oldham on the map and brought acclaim from across the UK's arts and culture sector.

For many years, the Coliseum has been one of only a handful of producing theatres outside of London, providing a platform for the development of new work. The closure of its Fairbottom Street on the back of the withdrawal of ACE funding was regrettable.

Since the Coliseum announced that it would close in March 2023, the public support for the Theatre has been phenomenal. Oldham residents, theatregoers from across the country, as well as some of the biggest names in UK performing arts are united by a desire to resolve the difficulties facing the Oldham Coliseum.

In September 2023, a study commissioned by the Coliseum Board concluded that the Fairbottom Street building is not beyond repair and could be used again and brought up to a modern standard with the appropriate investment. Investing in the Fairbottom building could be a much more cost-effective proposal freeing up millions for other projects and much needed regeneration.

This Council resolves to:

1. Examine the feasibility of refurbishing and investing into the Fairbottom Street building alongside the current option to create a long-term home for a producing theatre in the Borough.
2. Continue to Explore funding streams that could help finance the redevelopment of the existing venue, including the reallocation of funds from other initiatives linked with the future of Oldham Coliseum.
3. Bring a report to cabinet as soon as possible outlining the steps that this Council is taking to support the Oldham Coliseum Theatre to retain a producing theatre in the borough including the potential option to remain at home, on Fairbottom Street, which would also help regenerate that part of Oldham town centre and Yorkshire Street.