

## **The Civic, Barnsley - Travel Statement**

### **Introduction**

This travel statement has been written to support the application for planning and building consent for the refurbishment of The Civic.

It builds upon the venue's existing approach to managing travel and encouraging active transport methods and takes into consideration the wider town and sub regional plans for improvements to travel within urban centres.

The proposed refurbishment scheme will increase the scale of the operation on site therefore requiring increased staffing levels and resulting in increased usage by members of the public.

### **Background**

The Civic is an Arts Centre located in the centre of Barnsley. We offer a year-round programme of exhibitions, performances, events, and workshops across a range of artistic genres. We are a cultural hub for local groups regularly hosting community workshops, performances, and the Barnsley Music Service Music Centre. We have a range of clients who hire our venue for their business and social events, and we have a small number of tenants who operate from the building.

Our capital refurbishment project will increase the usable space in the asset so we can expand our activities into the building. It increases the artistic spaces available and creates dedicated space for our commercial and community activities. Our scheme also includes the conversion of three floors of office space at the Eldon Street end of our building into a bar/restaurant on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor office, & 3<sup>rd</sup> floor creation space/studio.

### **Location**

The Civic is located at the heart of Barnsley Town Centre. It is a short walk from both public surface car parks and the main transport interchange. It is in easy access of the taxi ranks and has accessible parking spaces close to the current main entrance.

The distance from the M1 to Barnsley Town Centre is around 2 miles which usually takes 5-10 minutes. There are also good road and public transport links to neighbouring boroughs.

### **Current travel plan**

There is no dedicated car parking for The Civic.

The core staff team of 14 employees currently walk, use public transport, or park a short distance away and walk into work.

Casual staff and volunteers, building based tenants and their service users are required to do the same.

Audience members and visitors to the venue are encouraged to use public transport due to the interchange's proximity to the building. Information is published on the organisation website and provided within booking confirmations. Information on local parking is currently also provided.

Audience members with physical access needs can park in spaces a few metres away from the entrance that are designated for the disabled. We also call taxi's for audience members from box office should they require one and access is possible a short distance from the entrance for pick up and drop off.

The members of Cross the Sky, our theatre company for adults with disabilities, are generally brought to us by taxi or carer support vehicles and they utilise pick up and drop off access a short distance from the entrance.

George Yard immediately outside the current entrance is under a traffic regulation order that states deliveries and turning are not permitted between 9.30am and 4.30pm.

Contractors and visiting companies are given access to park on a small area adjacent to the current entrance to The Civic, close to the service corridor, to enable efficient loading and unloading of equipment. These visitors are generally at site no longer than a day and are required to register their vehicle with Box Office when they arrive for security purposes. They are the only vehicles permitted to park due to their need for access to tools and equipment.

### **Changing context in Barnsley**

Barnsley is part of the SYMCA and the Region Mayor, with support from the member local authorities, is driving an initiative for more active travel to be adopted for commuters and leisure travellers.

The Transport Strategy for SYMCA commits to introducing 620 miles of accessible walking and cycling routes by 2040 and a significantly improved road and public transport offer that ensures more efficient, effective, and safer travel across all routes. The ambitious plans will significantly improve connectivity to and from Barnsley as a regional economic centre and this in turn should drive improvements locally that will benefit our organisation.

We will ensure we promote active travel routes as they are created and developed and encourage where we can our audiences and building users to make the most of what is available to them.

### **Travel plan for The Civic post redevelopment**

Our refurbished building will attract an increase in audience members and visitors, require a larger staff team and have new commercial tenants onsite. There are no plans to create or offer car parking onsite and so active travel will be promoted to all users of the building.

The current entrance to the building on Hanson Street will cease to be the main public entrance and instead function as a service and 'back of house' access. Arrangements for loading and unloading deliveries and access for maintenance contractors will therefore remain the same.

Eldon Street will become our main public entrance and loading and unloading will not be permitted through it.

As our larger building will be welcoming larger numbers of visitors, we will ensure we manage numbers carefully through staggered event start and finish times and considerate scheduling of the venue.

### **Car and Motorbike Travel**

#### **Employees**

We understand that due to the operational hours we require to be worked in the arts and hospitality sector that it is not always feasible or possible to use public transport or other means of travel to get home. Whilst active travel is important, employee safety must be prioritised.

Staff are encouraged where they can use alternative methods of transport than the car but if this is not possible, they can park a short distance away from site in the public car parks and walk in from there.

## **Commercial Tenants**

We will retain our policy of tenants only using the adjacent loading area by prior arrangement and that standard travel to and from the building will require parking in public car parks.

All service users of business tenants will be treated as general audience or members of the public under this plan.

## **Audiences and members of the public**

We will encourage any audience members and visiting public to the building to use active travel where possible. However, it is important to note that audience members coming to evening performances may prefer to drive and park in local car parks due to the late finish of the shows. Similarly, guests attending third party functions may also feel the same. It is important our building users feel safe on their journey home.

Their contribution to town centre car parks can be an important secondary spend income for the town itself.

We will continue to advise our audiences at the time of booking and through our website of the best ways to access us for their visit.

## **Hire clients, contractors and visiting artists/companies.**

We will need to provide loading and unloading access for these key groups as we currently do. This will be at what will become the rear entrance of the building and will operate on an appointment basis as it does now with vehicles needing to be registered with staff for security purposes.

## **Taxis**

There are a number of taxi ranks that operate close to the Civic. All are in walking distance and operate throughout the day and into the night.

These enable audiences and event attendees who leave the venue late to get home safely and also provide a reliable alternative to public transport for staff if needed.

## **Coaches and Group travel**

Some large school groups that travel from further afield will utilise coaches for their journey to us.

Coaches will park at designated points agreed with the local authority and the visiting group will then walk the short distance to the venue from the drop off and pick-up point.

## **Public transport**

The Civic is serviced well for public transport both bus and train. The main transport interchange is a short walk from both the front and rear of the building and there are bus stops on adjacent streets a short walk away for specific local routes.

Many of our employees already use public transport and will continue to do so into the future.

We will continue to encourage audience members and visitors to the building to use public transport as it is so convenient and accessible.

## **Walking and cycling**

Barnsley town centre is largely pedestrianised supported by several main routes in from neighbouring residential streets, enabling people who live in the immediate vicinity to easily access the town centre on foot.

A small number of staff who live this close will walk into work regularly.

Routes to and from car parks and central services are well serviced by pedestrian crossings and safe accessible pathways.

For those who live close to the Trans Pennine Trail it is possible to cycle a direct route from some parts of Barnsley into the centre of town. Showers are available at work for staff who may wish to cycle the full route to work.

Cycle storage racks have been introduced close to the transport interchange and a bike for hire business operates from the site. This may support more visitors to cycle to our venue.

As BMBC continues to improve cycle and walking routes near to us we will champion their use for all venue users.

### **Communication of our Travel statement**

This travel statement is linked to our environment and sustainability policy and our active travel policy in our employee handbook. It will be made available to all our employees, tenants and building users.

It will inform our public communications to customers about how to find us and access our facilities. It will be included in our contractual information issued to hire clients, visiting companies and other third parties.

It will inform operational procedures for the building and the tenancy agreements for commercial tenants.

We will endeavour to ensure our audiences and visitors receive consistent information from us about local transport arrangements and that active and greener choices are highlighted to them as much as possible.