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**For the attention of...**

Roger Marsh OBE  
Chair, LCR Local Enterprise Partnership  
Wellington House  
40-50 Wellington Street  
Leeds LS1 2DE

Friday 15 September 2017

Dear Mr Marsh,

**RE – Northern Cultural Regeneration Fund – Bradford Odeon petition**

We are writing to formally submit a petition to Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership on behalf of the people of Bradford.

Earlier this month, it was revealed that Bradford's former Odeon Cinema building (or New Victoria, or Gaumont for those of a certain vintage) will be reopening as a live music and events venue in 2020.

Although we are delighted by this latest news and the announcement that an operator is in place, we understand that there are still elements of funding to be secured. In particular, we believe there is a strong case for this project to qualify for funding from the Government's recently-announced Northern Cultural Regeneration Fund.

When the fund was first announced by Culture Secretary Karen Bradley in August, Bradford Civic Society started a petition to urge Leeds City Region to bid for this funding on behalf of the Bradford Odeon project. As only one bid per Local Enterprise Partnership can be submitted, we feel it's imperative that Bradford is at the front of the queue for culture and regeneration funding.



Since starting the petition, we've had over 2,700 signatures in support and received the backing of Bradford's MPs. We have also been encouraged by the news that both Bradford Council and developers Bradford Live are working on a bid for this element of funding too.

**Today, it is our pleasure to formally submit our petition of 2,705 signatures to you, which you will find attached.**

We would also encourage you to find the petition online and take five minutes to read just some of the hundreds of supporting heartfelt comments from Bradford and beyond.

We urge you to build on recent good news about the Bradford Odeon project and see the enormous potential that a live music venue – fully funded and delivered on time – will have not just for the city, but for the wider region.

You only have to look at Bradford Odeon's neighbour – City Park – to see the magnificent effect large-scale regeneration projects can have on a place. Let's come together to create a new icon that the whole region can be proud of, and inspire a new generation of Bradfordians to love their city while we're at it.

We look forward to your acknowledgement of our petition, and please do not hesitate to get in touch with us directly if you'd like to discuss this important project.

Yours sincerely,  
**Bradford Civic Society**