

# City Centre Tower Block Plans Defended

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The real-estate investment firm behind a controversial planned city tower block have defended their proposals.

The 20-storey apartment block proposed for the site of the former Capitol Odeon cinema on Queen Street, Cardiff, was recently lambasted by planning officials who identified a litany of failures.

Among other things the 164-apartment, copper, bronze and steel block was described as “overbearing, intrusive and congested”, “unneighbourly”, “incongruous” and “harmful to the surrounding environment”.

A spokeswoman for Moorfield Group, which owns the Capitol Centre and has put forward the proposals, said the London-based firm “firmly believed” that their scheme was right for the area.

She said: “As a company that has invested substantially in the city since 2001, including high-quality hotels, student housing and retail properties, we firmly believe that our scheme for the Capitol Shopping Centre is right for Cardiff and reflects our long-term commitment to the area.

“Our proposals will bring new homes to the heart of the city centre and improvements to the nearby streetscape, as part of a sustainable development that combines retail, residential and commercial space, reducing the need for travel and bringing vitality to a site that has been dormant since the closure of the Odeon cinema in 2001.

“We have been, and continue to be, open throughout this planning process to input and comments from the officers and members of the planning committee.”

The planning application will be decided at a public inquiry scheduled to start on October 28 this year.