

## CREATIVE DARLINGTON BOARD

Monday 13 June 2016 at 4.00pm  
Town Hall, Darlington

### MINUTES

**Present:**

Ada Burns	Miranda Thain
Laura Case	Bill Vince
John Dean	Lynda Winstanley
Sharon Paterson (chaired meeting)	Stephen Wiper
Seth Pearson	

**Apologies:**

Caroline Darnbrook  
Councillor Wallis  
Councillor Carson

**1. Minutes of last meeting**

- 1.1 A number of corrections to minutes of last meeting were agreed, minutes to amended to reflect Miranda Thain's attendance, point 2.14 to show the Tees Valley Innovate bid has been successful but that other proposals have yet to be confirmed and point 2.15 to show Council budget proposals for the Hullaballoon rather than Theatre Hullaballoon.
- 1.2 Action 1: Sharon Paterson to provide copy re point 2.14 and Creative Darlington Manager to update minutes.

**2. Creative Darlington terms of reference**

- 2.1 A paper was presented suggesting the terms of reference of Creative Darlington were amended with recommendations to extend the remit of the board to include arts and heritage and for the Creative Darlington Manager to further board recruitment to reflect this change, if agreed. Both were agreed.
- 2.2 The board noted the importance of maintaining momentum and working to priorities around 2025 and the development of Darlington's theatre offer. Discussion noted the importance of planning an induction process for any new board members. The board noted opportunities for alignment between the Creative Darlington agenda and Tees Valley cultural priorities, including promotion of city quality assets and expertise (including Darlington's theatre offer) positioned across the Tees Valley.
- 2.3 The Creative Darlington Manager advised positive discussion had taken place

around board membership with Chris Lloyd (heritage features lead for the Northern Echo) and Eileen Atkins, Area Manager (Tees Valley & County Durham) for Culture Bridge North East, who has worked in the heritage sector.

- 2.4 Action 2: Creative Darlington Manager to approach the Heritage Lottery Fund and Durham Music Service regarding Creative Darlington board representation.
- 2.5 Action 3: Sharon Paterson and Creative Darlington Manager to plan board induction for new members, meetings looking at what new members can bring to the table to be organised.
- 2.6 Action 4: Revised terms of reference to be updated to recommend 6 Creative Darlington board meetings per annum.

### **3 Theatre transition work and theatre town promotion**

- 3.1 Creative Darlington and the Civic Theatre have offered support to develop a proposal to inform a planned Grants for the arts application to enable audience development for theatre in Darlington, during the programmes to renovate the Civic Theatre Hippodrome, construct the Hullaballoon. The Creative Darlington Manager advised a proportion of the strategic arts budget for 2016/17 has been ring fenced to support this work. Laura Case is consulting with the Civic Theatre/Hippodrome, Jabberwocky Markets, OddManOut, Theatre Hullabaloo and with Audience Agency, Creative Darlington and Darlington for Culture to develop this proposal.
- 3.2 Laura Case and Lynda Winstanley advised the board of opportunities to develop the quality of data and shared intelligence regarding audiences for theatre in Darlington and test new marketing/audience development approaches for Darlington. Conversations have been held with Greenwich and Docklands Festival regarding their Global Streets programme and opportunities for Darlington to engage with this. The programme, subject to funding being secured, is expected to have a positive legacy beyond the capital programmes, including training for arts organisations to capture data.
- 3.3 Sharon Paterson congratulated Lynda Winstanley, director of the Civic Theatre, on behalf of the board, for delivery of an excellent Live at the Hippodrome event in June 2016.
- 3.4 Action 5: Laura Case to circulate link to Global Streets activity to board members.
- 3.5 Action 6: Lynda Winstanley to explore and advise the board of feasibility of 'hard hat' tour of the Hullaballoon and Hippodrome sites during the capital programme.

### **4. Darlington Arts Festival 2016 and proposal to support Darlington Arts**

## **Festival 2017**

- 4.1 John Dean, Darlington for Culture, provided a verbal update on Darlington Arts Festival 2016, which had included a significant number of events across Darlington town centre. Creative Darlington has supported the marketing of all Darlington Arts Festivals to date, with the strategic arts budget support being reduced year on year. The Creative Darlington Manager prepared a paper recommending Creative Darlington allocate £750 from the strategic arts budget for 2016/17 to promote Darlington Arts Festival 2017. This was agreed by the board.
- 4.2 John Dean advised the board that Darlington Arts Festival 2017 is likely to have 'a celebration of talent' theme and noted that there may be opportunities to increase outdoor public/town centre based programming within the festival and 'bring more energy to the streets'.

## **5. Luxi Ltd proposal**

- 5.1 The Creative Darlington Manager presented a paper recommending a conditional offer of £5,000 is made to Luxi Ltd from the strategic arts budget for 2016/17. This is expected to support the development of six new works by Luxi Ltd between 2016 and 2019 and activity to develop their organisation. The recommendation was agreed by the board, subject to the condition that Luxi Ltd provides an action plan for the proposal as a condition of first payment. It was agreed that the Creative Darlington board would not determine the nature of activity, but that activity should be premiered in Darlington.
- 5.2 Action 6: Creative Darlington Manager to send conditional offer of support to Luxi Ltd.

## **6. Risk Management**

- 6.1 The board are aware of the proposal to withdraw resources from Creative Darlington and risk management around the ongoing operation of the board and to the Creative Darlington vision. Changes to the terms of reference and the Council commitment to continue to facilitate and attend (at a senior officer and Cabinet member level) meetings of Creative Darlington will help to manage these risks.

## **7 Any other business**

- 7.1 Board members noted the Council's budget management process and asked to focus the agenda of the next board meeting on high level planning. It was noted that the combined authority had considered a report on 2025 and that resources have been allocated to support the development of a project plan for 2025.

- 7.2 Action 7: High level plan for Creative Darlington to be main item on next Creative Darlington board meeting.

7.3 The board discussed whether there was an opportunity for the Festival of Thrift to return to Darlington, following the Festival of Thrift 2016 in Redcar, Kirkleatham. The positive work and development of Festival of Thrift was noted and their born in Darlington, growing up across the Tees Valley aspiration.

- 7.4 Action 8: Ada Burns and Stephen Wiper to meet with Festival of Thrift and report back to the next Creative Darlington board meeting.

7.5 The board considered the Festival of Ingenuity which will take place in Darlington on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> of July 2016, promoted by One Darlington and supported by a number of organisations, businesses. The festival sits within 2016 as a government year of engineering. Seth Pearson advised of activity to be held in various areas including the Dolphin Centre, the Market Place and the plaza area of Feethams Leisure complex. It was noted that this space might accommodate outdoor film screenings in due course and that the Council's events service are supporting festival co-ordination.

7.6 The European referendum of 23 July 2016 and the potential impact of the result on proposals which may seek European culture programme support was discussed. It was noted that the Association of North East Councils had played a significant role re North East council's liaison with Europe, however this would not continue.

- 7.7 Action 9: Creative Darlington Manager to add European cultural opportunities to agenda of next meeting.

## **8. Activity Report**

A paper was presented for information. No questions were raised by the board.

## **9. Progress against action plan**

- 9.1 A paper was presented for information. No questions were raised by the board.