

# CREATIVE DARLINGTON BOARD

Monday 19 September 2016 at 3.00pm  
Town Hall, Darlington

## MINUTES

### Present:

John Anderson	Ian Simpson
Ada Burns	Bill Vince
John Dean	Councillor Wallis
Sharon Paterson (chaired meeting)	Martin Wilson
Caroline Pearce	Stephen Wiper
Seth Pearson	Councillor Carson (observer)

### Apologies:

Eileen Atkins  
Laura Case  
Caroline Darnbrook  
Chris Lloyd  
Miranda Thain  
Lynda Winstanley

### 1. Minutes of last meeting

1.1 Minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

### 2. Experience Darlington presentation

2.1 John Anderson provided a presentation on the Experience Darlington campaign, which is currently in development. The development of the campaign and strategy reflects the importance of the visitor economy to Darlington. Key components of the Darlington experience include the town centre economy and culture and further consultation around the Experience Darlington campaign will include a Town Centre conference event in spring 2017. The board welcomed the incorporation of culture (including arts and heritage) as a key component of the overall Darlington Experience, and recognised the importance of a clear and co-ordinated campaign to influence and involve key stakeholders, including national, regional and sub-regional bodies in the development process.

### 3 Developing Darlington's Culture Strategy

3.1 Stephen Wiper presented a draft of Darlington's Culture strategy to the board, which reflected the spring 2016 board discussion around the culture and heritage priorities for Darlington, particularly the strength of Darlington's

theatre offer, 2025 as both the bi-centenary of the first railway passenger journey on Locomotion No.1 and 2025, subject to successful application, the year of the Tees Valley UK City of Culture programme. The strategy will reflect the importance of inclusion and access to the cultural offer and commitment to excellence, underlying principles of the Creative Darlington vision. It is expected the timing of consultation around the culture strategy will run alongside consultation around the Experience Darlington campaign.

- 3.2 Creative Darlington board members welcomed the draft strategy, noted the importance of festival and events within Darlington's cultural offer, the contribution which culture makes to the One Darlington Perfectly Placed agenda, and linkages between Darlington's cultural strategy and the cultural priorities for Tees Valley, the North East and national strategy. Discussion noted the importance of skills development programmes and the growth in the scale of the creative sector, and the importance of development opportunities in Darlington and the Tees Valley, including the FUSE programme.
- 3.3 **Action 1:** Stephen Wiper to circulate updated draft for comments with papers for the next Creative Darlington board meeting.

#### **4 Great Places opportunity**

- 4.1 The board discussed the Great Places opportunity and whether Darlington should consider applying individually or as part of a broader Tees Valley proposal. Great Places is a new programme backed by Arts Council England and the Heritage Lottery Fund, and co-ordinated by Heritage Lottery Fund, with a small number of significant awards expected to be offered nationally, of which a sizeable proportion, are likely to be allocated to strong applications from rural areas. The application deadline in spring 2017. The board recognised the opportunity for Darlington to make a strong contribution to a Tees Valley proposal, which may be co-ordinated by the combined authority Darlington based expertise in particular areas, including our performing arts offer for young people, and the breadth and significance of Darlington heritage, including rail heritage, were noted.
- 4.2 **Action 2:** Creative Darlington Manager to attend Tees Valley Great Places proposal planning meeting

## 5. Jabberwocky Market

- 5.1 Caroline Pearce, producer, Luxi Ltd and the Jabberwocky Market gave a presentation covering the October 2016 programme and further development plans. Luxi Ltd is registered in Darlington and Creative Darlington supported allocated funding to support the Jabberwocky Market programme between 2013 and 2016, while the Council has provided a variety of in kind support. Caroline is making a significant contribution to Darlington's theatre offer, particularly development opportunities for the sector and reaching audiences in transition, and is engaged in significant project development across wide geographies, e.g. projects addressing cyber bullying. The spring 2016 Creative Darlington board meeting agreed to allocate £5,000 to Jabberwocky Market and Luxi Ltd and Jabberwocky Market are expected to engage with the theatre transition proposal in 2017/16, subject to successful application by Darlington Borough Council to Grants for the arts (decision expected December 2016).

## 6 IncludFEST Tees Valley, forward plans

- 6.1 Martin Wilson from Tin Arts provided a presentation on IncludFEST, IncludFEST Darlington was staged in South Park, Darlington, in 2015, and IncludFEST Tees Valley was staged in South Park, Darlington, in 2016. Creative Darlington allocated budget support to both events, with additional funds secured by Tin Arts from the County Durham Community Foundation and sponsorship. IncludFEST is a free, accessible family event focused on creative ability and offering a variety of opportunities accessible to families including those with children with disabilities. The 2016 IncludFEST Tees Valley event included a wide variety of arts activity, young people with disability played a significant role in event management, and a variety of Darlington and Tees Valley organisations and services programmed or supported activity, including Big Little Gigs, Darlington for Culture and Healthy Darlington. The board noted opportunities for Tin Arts to liaise with various Council services, Darlington and Tees Valley based organisations to benefit. Strategic arts budget will be allocated to support the development of a strong IncludFEST Tees Valley proposal in 2017 with activity focused in Darlington.
- 6.2 **Action 3:** Creative Darlington Manager to meet with Tin Arts re development of proposal to re-stage IncludFEST Tees Valley in Darlington in 2017.

## 7. Agreement of revised terms of reference

These were agreed by the board.

## **8. DCMS Tailored review of Arts Council**

- 8.1 The board agreed to submit a dedicated response to the DCMS tailored review of Arts Council England which recognised the contribution and expertise which Arts Council England have applied to the progression of the Creative Darlington vision.
- 8.2 **Action 4:** Creative Darlington Manager to submit response in advance of closure of tailored review.

## **9. Any other business**

- 9.1 The board noted papers for information and no concerns were raised.
- 9.2 **Action 5:** Darlington Borough Council to co-ordinate schedule of future board meetings.