

CREATIVE DARLINGTON BOARD

Monday 10 July 2017 at 2.00pm
Town Hall, Darlington

MINUTES

Present:

Laura Case

Caroline Darnbrook

Chris Lloyd

Sharon Paterson (chaired meeting)

Jo Potter

Seth Pearson

Ian Robinson

Bill Vince

Councillor Nick Wallis

Lynda Winstanley

Stephen Wiper

Councillor Carson - observer

Apologies:

Eileen Atkins

Ada Burns

Ivor Crowther

Miranda Thain

1. Minutes of last meeting

1.1 The minutes of the last meeting were agreed and Jolyon Potter (chair of Darlington for Culture) has replaced John Dean as the Darlington for Culture representative at Creative Darlington board meetings.

1.2 **Action 1:** Stephen Wiper to thank John Dean for his contribution to Creative Darlington

2. Experience Darlington and Culture Strategy update

2.1 A paper was presented showing the public response to survey questions around the draft Culture Strategy drawn from within the Experience Darlington consultation. Further meetings with stakeholders are expected and the Council and One Darlington are expected to consider the Experience Darlington and Culture strategies.

Action 2: Stephen Wiper to consult with CD board members on the action plan for the Culture Strategy.

3 Tees Valley Combined Authority Culture and Tourism update

3.1 TVCA has secured a Great Place programme offer from Heritage Lottery Fund for a proposal incorporating programmes led by various partners, including Arc, Darlington Borough Council, SIRF, Tees Valley Arts, and

Theatre Hullabaloo. Each local authority and TVCA has allocated support for the Great Place programme, and TVCA will manage the programme and expect to appoint a co-ordinator shortly. The SIF led programme is expected to engage with Darlington (possibly Darlington Community Carnival) in 2018.

- 3.2 TVCA has scheduled a visit to Hull to meet with those involved in their successful proposal for UK City of Culture 2017. Darlington Borough Council will send representatives.
- 3.3 TVCA had submitted a Tees Valley proposal to NGI for the Great Exhibition of the North (June to September 2018) and is awaiting their decision. Proposal focused on Tees Valley's innovative heritage and current areas of Tees Valley innovation and business practice. Success would present a good opportunity to promote Tees Valley's Culture and Tourism offer, and leave Tees Valley better placed to explore legacy opportunities.
- 3.4 Arts Council England's announcement of National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) decisions has seen an increase in NPOs located in Tees Valley from four to six, with the addition of Tees Valley museum services through Stockton Borough Council and Middlesbrough Town Hall (focus on music programme), with Arc, Theatre Hullabaloo, mima and Stockton International Riverside Festival remaining within the portfolio between 2018 and 2022.
- 3.5 TVCA are in the process of seeking expressions of interest across different sectors, including Culture and Tourism. Darlington Culture and Tourism opportunities include the 2025 bi-centenary, interpretation of the Stockton & Darlington Railway and the business case for railway heritage.

4 Creative Fuse and Creativity Works

- 4.1 Sharon Paterson, Teesside University, gave a presentation on these programmes, advising the board re opportunities for creative sector bodies committed to working with at least two North East universities, to seek support for pilot activity (£5k awards) through an application process, likely to open in autumn 2017, with the opportunity to develop larger programmes of work (£20k+) thereafter.

The presentation included the ways in which Theatre Hullabaloo currently engage with children and young people, including those within small rural schools. While construction of The Hullaballoon immersive productions like Spirits of the Sea are being shared in Darlington and Tiny Treasures, a new play commissioned to raise awareness of the existence of young carers and the issues they face, is being shared widely (including Northern Stage and The Witham). Work is being undertaken and proposals developed for communities in Darlington, including those around Red Hall and Mount

- 4.2 Pleasant schools and Theatre Hullabaloo is engaged with particular universities to progress research.

Miranda is currently contributing to North East Cultural Partnership's strategic

work around children and young people. The TakeOff Festival is England's leading festival of theatre for children and young people and is approaching its thirtieth year, with activity around County Durham and Darlington.

- 4.3 Board discussion noted the achievements of Theatre Hullabaloo in creating work which puts the young person at the heart of the creative process and the value of their advocacy for the belief that children and young people have an entitlement to theatre of the highest quality which inspires the imagination and challenges the mind.

- 4.4 The Creative Darlington Manager advised the board that Darlington Borough Council has confirmed budget to support Theatre Hullabaloo's work in Darlington in 2017/18, 2018/19 and 2019/20 subject to an annual agreement.

Action 4: Progress agreement for Darlington Borough Council support for Theatre Hullabaloo in 2017/18 – Laura Case, Miranda Thain, Stephen Wiper

4.5

4.6

5. Civic Theatre/Hippodrome presentation

- 5.1 Caitlin Barratt, Heritage Learning and Engagement Officer for Darlington Civic Theatre/Hippodrome gave a presentation on their work with children and young people and the activity she is developing since taking up this new role in Darlington.
- 5.2 The Civic Theatre has an established Artspark programme and the Hippodrome will incorporate an education hub for this and work around the heritage of theatre in Darlington. Work to date has included building links with schools partnerships, developing and piloting with Darlington schools discovery boxes themed around theatre heritage, shaped in part by science, technology, engineering and mathematics within the curriculum.
- 5.3 The heritage programme includes family open days, regular talks and events. The restored Civic re-opening as The Hippodrome will house a variety of exhibition spaces (including a heritage exhibition space and another exhibition space focused on children and young people's work) and links are being made with partners including Cleveland College of Arts and Design around programme development. The Civic/Hippodrome is also connecting with various partners to explore volunteering, work experience and apprenticeship opportunities.

6 Culture Bridge North East

- 6.1 Eileen Atkins gave a presentation on the work and role of Culture Bridge North East, including the national, regional, Tees Valley and local context of their work, government commitment to cultural entitlement for children and young people and the impact of deprivation on cultural engagement and educational attainment were considered. Arts Council England's Cultural Education Challenge - calling for the art, culture and education sectors to work together in offering a consistent and high quality art and cultural education for all children and young people informs the work of Culture Bridge North East. The presentation and discussion noted the significance of LSEP's as an emerging mechanism to encourage engagement between the cultural sector and those working in education.

7 Discussion – how should we work together to benefit children and young people in the borough?

- 7.1 The discussion recognised the significant cultural capacity housed in Darlington and opportunities for cultural engagement to make a positive contribution across Every Child Matters priorities here, particularly once The Hullaballoon opens.

Discussion considered how easy it was for children and young people to engage with and become aware of the breadth and quality of cultural opportunities in Darlington, and whether access was equal.

Passport schemes to cultural engagement were referenced and the value of access to forums for senior management from schools and colleges.

Tees Valley wide LSEP first met in October 2016 and is expected to meet again in April 2017. The board noted opportunities for Darlington to engage more fully in shaping the Tees Valley LSEP agenda.

Discussion considered opportunities for culture to shape Darlington's emerging Strategy for Children and Young People and recognised the importance of bespoke programmes to progressing the Cultural Education Challenge.

Discussion noted the importance of current intelligence around volunteering, apprenticeship and skills development opportunities for children and young people.

Discussion noted the importance of early engagement in cultural opportunities and the value of research which can inform future commissioning of services.

8 Commissioning

- 8.1 Creative Darlington is organising a half day meeting between those commissioning services for children and young people in Darlington and

those providing cultural services, including organisation in Darlington, Tees Valley and the North East. The meeting will run between 2pm and 5pm on Wednesday 14 June 2017.

9. Creative Darlington brand

- 9.1 The board considered a paper around the Creative Darlington brand and whether to update the Creative Darlington website to reflect extension of remit to include arts and heritage and reflect Darlington's emerging Culture Strategy (currently in consultation).
- 9.2 **Action 5:** Stephen Wiper to co-ordinate board photograph for Creative Darlington to reflect new membership and to invite board members to submit description of their engagement with Creative Darlington, and may show particular interests of their organisation/business regarding the Creative Darlington vision, the arts and heritage and Darlington (c. 200 words can include links).

10 Any Other Business

No any other business was declared.