

One Darlington : Perfectly Placed

Darlington's Sustainable Community Strategy
2008-2021

Revised May 2014

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An inclusive approach

If English is not your first language and you would like more information about this document, or if you require information in large print, Braille or on tape, please contact the ???.

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What 'One Darlington : Perfectly Placed' means for you

This plan may seem to be a fairly technical document. That's because it has to deal with some complex issues, but it has a very clear and straightforward purpose. It is about a new deal for Darlington in which all of us have a part to play in creating a future that may look like this:

- Our children get the best possible start in life and all of us can play a part in giving them the right kind of support early on to enable them to live well throughout life
- We are all able to enjoy good health, wellbeing and life expectancy wherever we live in the borough and whatever our circumstances
- We are all able to live in attractive surroundings and play a part in caring for our environment
- We are able to satisfy our needs and aspirations, with job opportunities available in the local economy and the training and support to enable us to adapt to those opportunities.
- We can all play a part in making sure there is the right kind of care and support available within the community to help us live independently, particularly as we grow older

This document refers often to the 'outcomes' that we are aiming to create. The above are some examples of outcomes and there will be many more arising from this plan. All of them are about creating and maintaining a good quality of life by and for everyone in Darlington (One Darlington), and about making Darlington the best possible place to live and work (Perfectly Placed).

The plan is designed to enable all the many organisations working towards these outcomes to agree what are the most important things that need to be done; and to co-ordinate their activities so that we get the best results and make the most efficient use of the available money and other resources.

The economic downturn has led to massive challenges and changes in the way we are able to provide the services we all need. Together we are responding to these challenges in many positive and innovative ways to make sure that Darlington continues to thrive and be a great place despite the present hard times. This plan is about how all of us together - public services, businesses, voluntary organisations and the wider community - can contribute to that.

Foreword

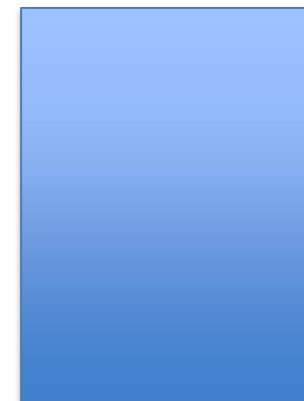
Welcome to this new edition of One Darlington : Perfectly Placed, the overall plan for Darlington up to 2021. The plan was originally drawn-up in 2008, to provide a guiding framework for all of the public, private and voluntary sector bodies working to improve services and quality of life in the borough. Darlington Partnership brings all of them together to co-ordinate activities and resources and focus on shared outcomes.

The current economic climate across the UK is exceptionally challenging, and was not foreseen when the plan was first prepared. It has been overtaken by radical changes in the business environment, public sector austerity and major welfare reforms. This new version of the plan has been prepared in response to these new financial realities. There is no longer a legal requirement to have an overarching plan like One Darlington : Perfectly Placed (technically known as a 'Sustainable Community Strategy') but in Darlington we believe that it serves a valuable function in helping the various bodies and agencies to work together effectively, and that this is going to be all the more important in making the best possible use of much reduced resources to ensure that Darlington continues to be a great place to live and work for everybody in the community.

The key questions running through this plan are: how can Darlington continue to thrive in the face of massive reductions in public sector funding; and how can we tackle and reverse the growing inequality that Darlington has experienced in recent years? It would be easy in the present circumstances to be defeatist and ride out the financial storm until circumstances improve. But we think we can do so much better by being both realistic and innovative in working together across the community to make the most of our outstanding assets of people and place.

There is much cause for optimism. Despite the current financial realities the prospects for Darlington's economy over the next few years are very positive and exciting, with world-leading science-based technologies set to take us into to yet another chapter in Darlington's great history of innovation and enterprise. There are many other exciting changes taking place, in schools management, housing development, regeneration of the Town Centre Fringe and, ground-breaking collaboration between central and local government, and much, much more. This plan describes what we need to do, and the kind of place Darlington needs to be, to make the most of the opportunities now available to us, and make the changes needed to tackle inequality and improve quality of life for everybody.

Alasdair MacConnachie, OBE, DL, HonDBA, FRSA
Chairman, Darlington Partnership



The plan at a glance

Our vision

One Darlington : Perfectly Placed

What we need to enable:

We will reduce inequality by ensuring we have:

Children with the best start in life	More businesses and more Jobs
A safe & caring community	More people caring for our environment
More people active and involved	Enough support for people when needed
More people healthy and independent	A place designed to thrive

To thrive and to tackle inequality by delivering the above priority outcomes, Darlington needs to be a place that does the following:

What we need to do:

Build strong communities Spend every pound wisely Grow the economy

One Darlington
Embracing our approach to people, and specifically the need to make sure that people are not disadvantaged by their lack of income, where they live, or by any other potential disadvantage that could cause them to miss out on the opportunities arising from living and working in Darlington

Perfectly Placed
Describing our approach to shaping and improving Darlington as a place, helping us guide investment decisions, spatial planning and care for the environment, strengthening the economy, and making sure that Darlington has the right homes, jobs, facilities and transport to enable it to thrive.

Location and sub-regional connections



Darlington's location, strategic communications links and its position and partnerships within the Tees Valley Sub-Region are vital assets in the delivery of this plan and in working towards the vision of One Darlington : Perfectly Placed.

Darlington borough is a unitary local authority area lying at the western end of the Tees Valley, a sub-regional grouping that also includes the unitary authorities of Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland, and Stockton-on-Tees. Since becoming a unitary authority in 1997, Darlington has positioned itself as part of the Tees Valley, working in partnership with the other Tees Valley authorities, through the agency of Tees Valley Unlimited (TVU), on strategic investment and regeneration planning.

Darlington is regarded as the 'gateway' to the Tees Valley and to the wider north-east region. Darlington Station on the east coast mainline railway connects the borough and Tees Valley with the rest of the UK, whilst Durham Tees Valley Airport, located within the borough, provides links to Europe and the world through Amsterdam. Darlington sits at the crossing of the north-south A1 motorway and the east-west A66 trunk road.

Darlington's location and excellent communications combined with its high quality of life in a sub-regional context are key assets in the borough's attractiveness as a place to live and work. The importance of these assets to the delivery of this plan are summarized under the 'Grow the Economy' heading on pages 8 and 9.

People and place, challenges and opportunities

Two widely divergent stories can be told about Darlington's circumstances and prospects as this plan is being prepared. The plan must bring together and respond to both of these stories. We want to make sure that the current outstanding opportunities for growth and economic advancement are turned into reality, and that the benefits of growth are directed towards helping to tackle the challenges of austerity and inequality that currently affect some citizens and communities in Darlington.

One Darlington - austerity and growing inequality:

The impact of the economic downturn combined with welfare reforms, demographic changes (particularly an ageing population, and changing public expectations has reversed much of the good progress that was being made previously in reducing inequalities across the borough. Since 2009 unemployment has risen, and the gap in unemployment rates between the best and worst areas has widened. Youth unemployment in particular has increased significantly. The number of children living in poverty has increased. The gaps in educational attainment and qualifications between people affected by these changes and others have widened. The public sector is going through a huge reduction in the resources available to provide services that address these gaps. For example, funding to Darlington Borough Council has reduced by 19.9% between 2010 and 2014, resulting in a £22.2 million reduction in expenditure and the loss of nearly 500 jobs, with knock-on effects on service capacity spending power in the local economy. The trend will accelerate, with an estimated further reduction of 64% (£22m) by 2020. Similarly severe reductions are also impacting on other public sector bodies as the government shifts from needs-based allocation of funding to competitive bidding for much reduced funds.

Perfectly Placed - growth and opportunity

The borough stands on the threshold of an exciting period of economic opportunity and growth. The Darlington Gateway Strategy has driven a transformation in the local economy. Now a new phase is opening up in Darlington's history of innovation in technology and engineering, notably in the development of Central Park with its complementary combination of higher education institutions and cutting-edge digital, sub-sea engineering and biologics businesses. Advanced engineering, logistics and services are also important sectors; the housing market is strengthening and an ambitious Council house building programme is about to start; an innovative public sector hub combining central and local government services in one building is under construction; Lingfield Point continues to grow as the home of some of the north east's most significant businesses; a cinema and hotel development will strengthen the town centre; the strong arts and cultural offer in Darlington is being carried forward by Creative Darlington, with the Civic Theatre, Theatre Hullabaloo, Festival of Thrift, Crown Street Art Gallery and The Bridge as key assets supported by a raft of community activity; and the regeneration of the Town Centre Fringe will transform the area connecting Central Park, the town centre and the railway station.

The challenges are enormous, but Darlington is responding in very positive and innovative ways. The physical place is changing and adapting to make the most of the growth opportunities, and we are at the cutting-edge nationally in developing new and collaborative approaches to managing and delivering services. The following four pages say more about this and outline our proposals for expanding these changes into all areas of community life. The emphasis is less on changing or reducing what is delivered in response to the financial challenges, and more on managing **how** services are delivered and **who** delivers them to optimise **what** is delivered.

Three conditions for change

The three conditions describe what Darlington needs to be like to have the resilience and capacity to thrive, in an environment of reduced public spending:

Build Strong Communities

Enabling people to live fulfilling lives with less involvement from public services:

- People take personal responsibility
- People live in communities with strong social capital and where people look out for each other
- Communities come together and take ownership and responsibility for the neighbourhood they live in and care about

A new balance between what public services can do for people and communities and what people can do or organise for themselves, with enabling support from services or the voluntary/private sectors. This will involve reinforcing 'social capital' - the relationships and networks that enable people to feel that they belong and can ask for or offer help and support to family, neighbours or the wider community, and invest time and effort in their community. There is a strong evidence base for the links between social connectedness, happiness and well-being and reduced need for services.

Spend every pound wisely

Maximising value for all public services

- Public services are planned and where sensible commissioned together
- Every pound is spent well on the things that make the most impact

Public services in Darlington are very low cost and efficient. We will of course hunt down yet more efficiencies in the way we work, but the emphasis in spending every pound wisely is much more about making a combined effort across all public sector organisations – Council, NHS, Police, schools, colleges – within Darlington and neighbouring areas, to work together to invest our shared resources to maximum effect. It is about working collaboratively to redesign services from the perspective of the citizen, with the emphasis on enabling independent living and ensuring that people receive just enough support, for only as long as they need it, to maintain their independence. And it is about enabling that support to come from the most appropriate and cost effective sources, and that may mean family, friends and neighbours, as well as the Council, NHS and voluntary sector.

Grow the economy

Generate income streams, employment and opportunities

- We have a strong and vibrant economy
- We achieve growth in the economy

Creating the economic conditions that can contribute to tackling poverty and inequality, whether directly, through reduced unemployment and worklessness, and higher incomes; or indirectly by generating financial benefit through increased business rates and council tax arising from new development, for investment in services. We want to create more jobs and grow successful businesses. More jobs, and more better paid jobs, means more money in the Darlington economy. Creating our own wealth reduces our dependency on the declining grant from government. We need to ensure that growth is sustainable, by achieving the right kind of development in the right places to attract further investment, and to provide jobs and opportunities that meet local needs.

Getting Darlington working in line with the three conditions

This page gives examples of some of the ways in which the three conditions are being, or will be, translated into reality:

Building Strong Communities

Schools@onedarlington is a strong schools-led partnership providing mutual support and challenge, and agreed spending priorities to continue improvement of all schools. This is a nationally significant example of the BSC principle in practice. Equally it enacts the 'Spending every pound wisely' condition.

Examples of Darlington's well-developed networks of 'social capital' include:

- Good Friends – Age UK, Darlington Partnership and Neighbourhood Watch, enabling volunteers to offer support to others in the community
- Darlington Cares – employers making Darlington a better place through co-ordinated workforce volunteering
- Growing Older Living in Darlington (GOLD) – working to enable people over 50 to play a strong role in the community
- Foundation for Jobs – Darlington Partnership and businesses improving employment prospects for young people
- Creative Darlington – developing, funding and delivering arts events and activities across Darlington
- Friends groups – volunteers involved in the care and management of their parks; there is scope for much more community-led involvement in environmental care and asset management to reduce revenue costs

Spending every pound wisely

The Council is now responsible for Public Health in Darlington, with the Clinical Commissioning Group of local GPs, responsible for purchasing health services, co-terminus with the Council. We now have an outstanding opportunity to work together on a unified approach to public health strategy and commissioning with the emphasis on preventative health services. Prevention is better for people in terms of longevity and quality of life, and it makes much better use of the available resources. £1 spent now on preventative mental health services saves £5 later on treatment; £1 spent now on preventative drug and alcohol programmes saves £4 later.

We will explore the potential for bringing the Council and CCG functions under a combined management structure. More importantly for the public, preventative health care will be transformed from April 2014 by 'Healthy Darlington', a new lifestyle improvement service to be commissioned by Public Health from the Council's Leisure Service. This will incorporate the Making Every Contact Count model for delivering better health outcomes with the Dolphin Centre as the health hub.

The national Better Care Fund will provide initial investment to develop preventative strategies and structures, but challenging decisions will then be needed to shift sufficient resources from treatment to prevention to carry the strategy forward.

Growing the economy

Tees Valley Unlimited (TVU) acts as the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) for Tees Valley, distributing economic regeneration funds:

European Structural Fund - €200m allocated to Tees Valley Transitional Area in 2014-20

Local Growth Fund – government capital funds for regeneration and transport; the first bids will be submitted in April 2014

TVU Investment Fund – recycles business rates into loans for regeneration projects

These funds are essential in enabling economic growth in Darlington, and therefore in delivering this plan. Our economic growth priorities are set out in Darlington's Economic Strategy 2012-26, and summarised on page ??

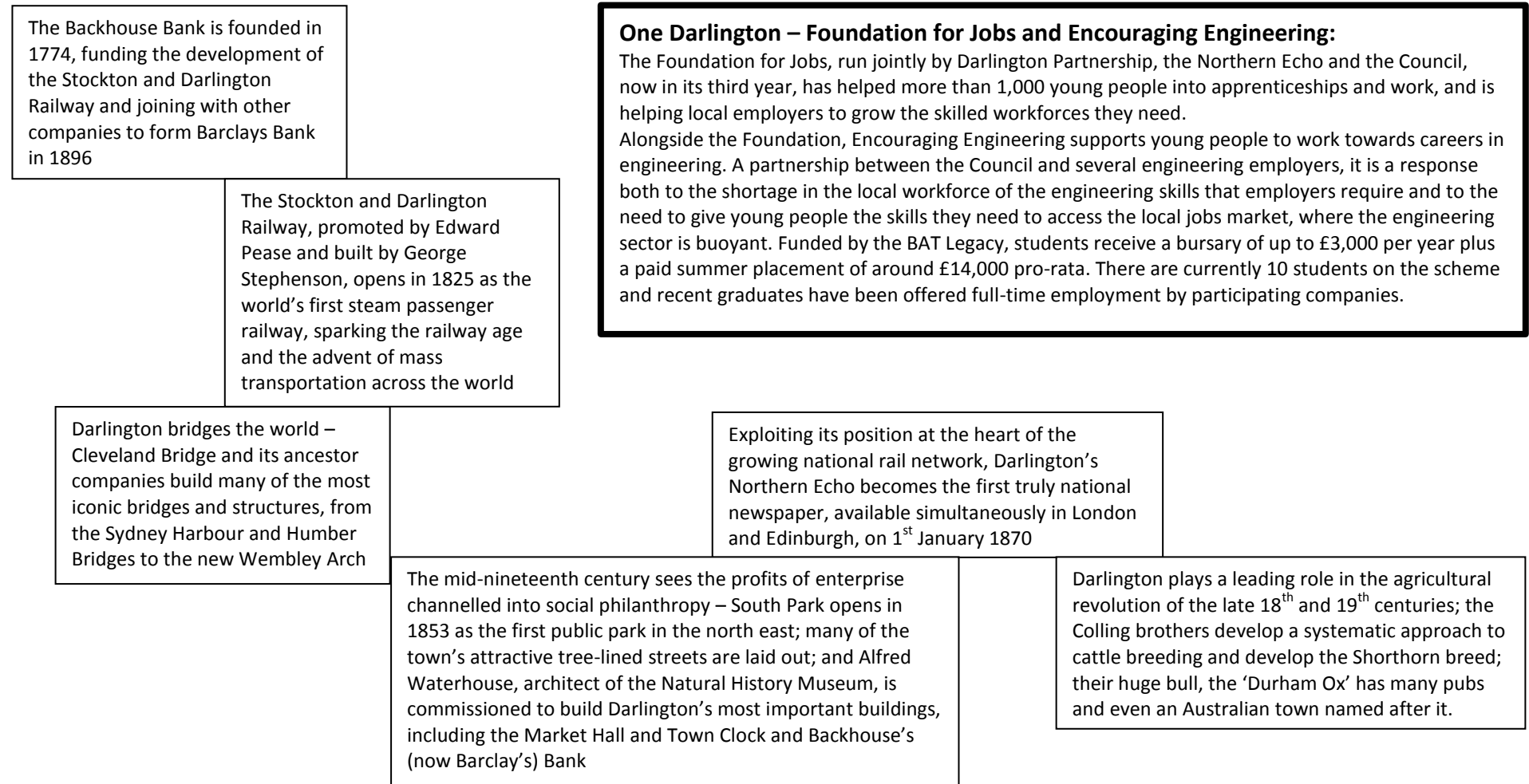
TVU is supporting these priorities: Central Park is identified as a key investment opportunity in the Tees Valley Enterprise Zone; a TVU loan is enabling development of the central/local government Public Sector Hub; and the upgrading of Darlington Bank Top Station is a priority in the Tees Valley Strategic Economic Plan.

In turn Central Park, for example, is set to be a new engine of high quality economic growth, combining higher education research and training facilities with world-leading sub-sea engineering, digital and biologics businesses.

Growing the economy is also about nurturing the formation of new local businesses and supporting their growth

Darlington's DNA *(Double page spread - DNA spiral graphic across double page, embedded with images and text that express Darlington's spirit of innovation and enterprise – equivalent of pages 8 and 9 of current SCS. Text below to run across both pages)*

Darlington's DNA is its spirit of innovation and enterprise combined with a powerful ethos of social responsibility, shaping its industrial and business heritage and its character as a place. These pages show how this has manifested itself in the past and may do so again in the future, from the spark two hundred years ago that launched the age of mass rail transportation, to the advent now of world-leading roles in sub-sea engineering and the literally DNA-focused development of biologics or bespoke medicines. This adventurous spirit will help us through the present challenges of economic rebalancing *(See continuation text on next page)*



into a very promising future. Our present circumstances, however, require a shift in the way we act on this, from the top-down, philanthropic and welfare culture that has been so evident in Darlington’s past to an approach rooted in active communities and citizen involvement. Also included here are two accounts of current initiatives showing how the One Darlington and Perfectly Placed parts of the vision are playing out in practice to deliver complementary and mutually reinforcing outcomes.

Perfectly Placed – Central Park and the National Horizons Centre:

Central Park is a 30 hectare flagship regeneration project for Tees Valley, adjoining the railway station and linked to the town centre by the Town Centre Fringe regeneration area. Already the home of Darlington College and Teesside University, Central Park will provide 500 new homes, around 3,000 jobs, hotel and conference facilities, an iconic new park, office accommodation and new links to the railway station and town centre.

The new jobs will be generated primarily by bringing together the research and training capabilities of the university and college with world class work in three sectors: sub-sea engineering, led by three Darlington-based companies, Deep Ocean, Modus and Sub-Sea Innovation; Biologics, with the National Biologics Manufacturing Centre being built by CPI to move research in ‘bespoke medicines’ towards production; and digital business innovation and development, with Teesside University moving all its business-facing activities to Darlington.

Modus in partnership with Darlington College has developed C-State, an international training facility for pilots of sub-sea remote operating vehicles (ROVs) that is already bringing trainees to Darlington from all over the world.

The real driver of growth, spinning-off new SMEs and jobs into Darlington, Tees Valley and the wider region, will be the National Horizons Centre, which will bring together the three emerging sectors – sub-sea, biologics and digital business innovation – in a single industry-education-technology partnership, with the facilities, expertise and people to meet the training and innovation needs of the new horizon industries and the ‘factories of the future’. The Central Park Business Incubator, under construction in 2014, will have a complementary role in facilitating new businesses emerging from this growth generator. Central Park and the National Horizons Centre meets both an urgent local need for growth and jobs that can underpin delivery of the other outcomes in this plan, and a compelling global opportunity.

Central Park has emerged as a power house of economic growth across the Tees Valley and the North East, spinning-off new SMEs and job into the region. By 2025 academics and innovators from across the world travel to its conferences and workshops, and cities and governments come to learn about it as a regeneration model

In 2020 Darlington children are able to access the best possible education in their local school, irrespective of where they live. Competition between schools, and for places in the best schools, has been replaced by collaborative support and challenge and uniformly high standards in all schools

In 2014 Darlington children attend the best primary schools in the country, with the highest percentage of places of any local authority area being in schools in ‘good’ or ‘outstanding’ Ofsted categories

Schools@onedarlington continues to develop as a unique and nationally recognised model of collaborative schools improvement. By 2017 the model has expanded to include a number of schools from neighbouring local authority areas. All schools are involved in Multi-Academy Trusts and all are in ‘good’ or ‘outstanding’ Ofsted categories

The success of the Public Sector Hub, bringing Council and DfE staff and facilities together in one building, has by 2020 caused other central government offices to relocate to Darlington, and stimulated further joint services collaboration across the local public sector

Innovation in Education includes George Dent Nursery School, the second oldest in the country, whilst more recently the Education Village is the first provision national example of mainstream primary and secondary schools being integrated on one site with specialist education

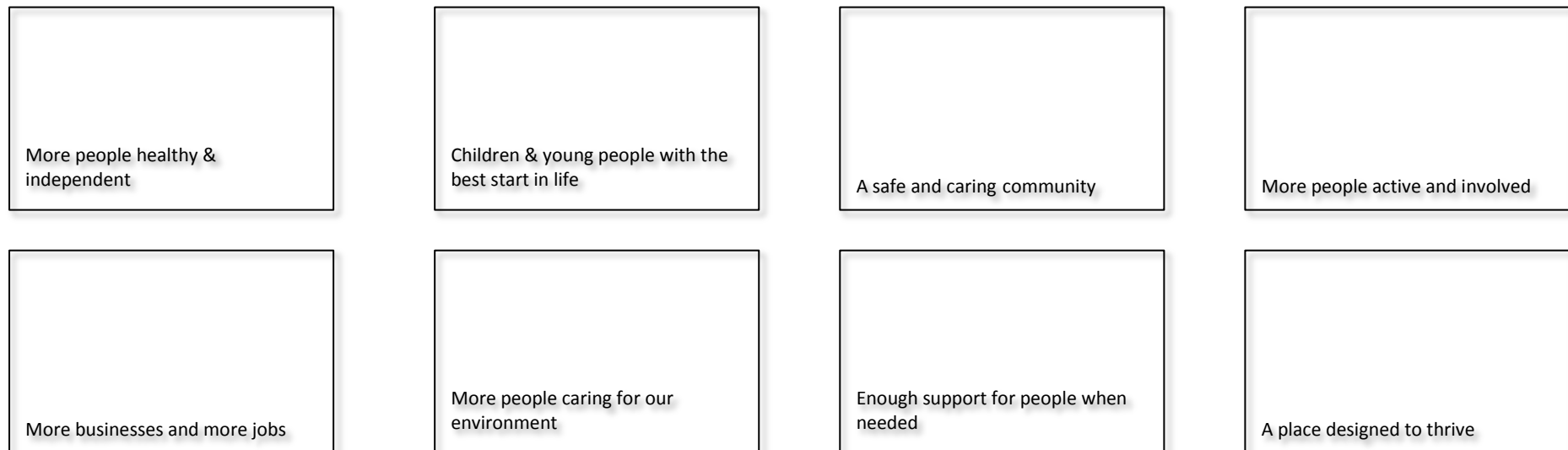
By 2019 Lingfield Point’s Festival of Thrift has become an event of international significance, attracting a world-wide audience to an annual celebration of self-reliance, sustainable living and community

Eight strategic outcomes

This section of the plan provides more detail on the eight outcomes ('What we need to enable' in the diagram on page 3), defining **what** needs to be improved in pursuit of the vision of One Darlington : Perfectly Placed.

The content in this Outcomes section is necessarily pitched at a high level, to give an overall picture of all the issues and needs that must be tackled by the various agencies and services to progress the vision. The details of what will be done, by whom, how and when are set out in the various thematic and delivery plans and strategies, as illustrated on page 22.

The eight outcomes are interdependent. All the partners involved in delivering this plan must avoid working in silos and focusing on only one outcome area in their delivery proposals. Improvements will be more sustainable if proposals are designed to maximise benefits across multiple outcomes. And the 'Spend every pound wisely' maxim requires that we do this in order to make the best possible use of our resources. (Examples?). Each of the following outcome sections provides a broad outline of these interdependencies, but it is through the design and specification of detailed proposals that the partners must take responsibility for maximising the benefits across outcomes if this plan is to be achieved and limited resources used wisely.



Eight images representing the eight outcomes

More people healthy and independent

Overview: this outcome is focused on improving the key determinants of health, whilst the 'More people active and involved' outcome is concerned with healthy lifestyles. All the outcomes can contribute to tackling the determinants of health - the Marmot Report, 'Fair Society Healthy Lives' (2010) provides the evidence base for reducing health inequalities through preventative strategies based on early intervention, fair opportunities for all, healthy lifestyles and healthy, sustainable places.

Recent progress:

- Teenage conception rates, a key determinant of health and life expectancy for mother and child, are falling, but remain higher than the national average
- Breastfeeding is a major contributor to good health for mother and child, and has increased, although below national average
- Life expectancy is increasing for both men and women, but remain below national averages
- 'Healthy Darlington' will be commissioned as a new preventative health service from April 2014, incorporating the Making Every Contact Count model, with the Dolphin Centre as its hub

Key issues and future needs:

- Inequalities in life expectancy within Darlington are significant, with gaps of 14.6 years for men and 11.6 years for women between the most deprived and least deprived areas
- Long-term health prospects are undermined by the above average number of children living in poverty, below-average breastfeeding rates, and the number of children who are not 'school ready' at age 5
- Another long-term health determinant are the high levels of tooth decay in children under 5 compared to England average
- Alcohol-related hospital admissions remain high
- The health effects of individual lifestyle choices, particularly smoking, drinking, lack of exercise and sexual health are significant

Action headlines:

- Focus on interventions that give children and young people the best start in life, including smoking in pregnancy and within families, breast-feeding, diet and obesity, teenage pregnancy, and awareness in young people of alcohol-related harm
- Improve health by encouraging individuals to change lifestyle choices in relation to alcohol, tobacco, physical activity and diet; give support to address issues of mental and emotional well-being that often underlie harmful lifestyles; give the support needed to enable people to live healthy and independent lives in old age
- Improve the wider determinants of health, including education and skills, jobs and incomes, housing, planning and transport, sport and physical activity and access to green space; this priority is key to improving the long-term inequalities in health

One Darlington/inequality indicators:

- Children living in poverty
- School readiness; pupil absence
- Fuel poverty
- Under 18 conceptions
- Smoking at time of delivery
- Breastfeeding rates
- Employment rates (incl. people with LD & mental health issues)
- Alcohol-related hospital admits
- Tooth decay in under 5s
- Preventable causes mortality

Linking outcomes and the three conditions:

Actions under all of the other outcomes can support health outcomes – Children and young people with the best start in life, A safe and caring community, More people active and involved and Enough support for people when needed have particularly strong synergies with this outcome. The Growing the economy condition is key to tackling wider health determinants. The strong communities condition is key to supporting health and independence for older people.

Where's the detail: Health and Well-being Strategy (in development); Annual Report of Director of Public Health; Single Needs Assessment and Annual Updates

Children & young people with the best start in life

Overview: there is strong evidence that a child's first five years determine health, attainment and well-being throughout life. There is also strong correlation between final academic qualifications and life expectancy. The Marmot report, 'Fair Society Healthy Lives' (2010) is the key evidence base. Early preventative intervention and support up to age 18 is therefore not only critical to quality of life for individuals but is also a key to reducing service demand and costs later in life and, ultimately, to the delivery of this plan.

Recent Progress:

- Schools@onedarlington - schools collaborating to challenge and improve provision across state and private sectors; Multi-Academy Trusts link and support schools
- Standards in education attainment have improved from an already good level to some of the best in the country
- Reception year attendance is higher than the national average
- The timescale that children wait between a court decision on their placement permanence and placement is the best in the country
- Educational attainment of looked after children, black and ethnic minority children, children with disabilities and those receiving free school meals are improving, closing the gap with their peers
- Youth offending rates are low and episodes of remand are very low
- Teenage unemployment rose for a period but fell in 2013
- Young people's self-reported substance misuse is falling
- Anti-social behavior is reducing
- The Family Support Service has reduced the number of children taken into care by 10% since 2011/12 by better targeting troubled families
- The uptake of free childcare for 2 and 3 year olds is increasing
- In 2013 we established the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) with health, police, adult services, children's services and housing to improve the co-ordination of all referrals of children in need

Key issues and future needs:

- Some teaching is still not yet graded as good or better

- Too few young people stay in education or training beyond age 17
- Children witness too much domestic abuse
- 21% of our children are living in poverty, and up to 38% in some areas – some young people are too ill through malnourishment to study
- The range and quality of post 16 accommodation needs to improve

Action headlines: areas highlighted for action include:

- Reducing obesity in children across the borough
- Tackling oral health – tooth decay in under 5s is high
- Improving post-16 learning and skills development
- Ensure that children grow up in homes free from violence and abuse
- Improve parenting skills and reduce neglect due to lifestyle/addiction
- Implement Teenage Pregnancy and Sexual Health 3 year action plan

One Darlington/inequality indicators:

- Health inequalities, including obesity and alcohol and drug misuse
- School performance and attendance figures
- Child poverty measures
- Youth justice figures
- Under-18 conceptions
- Child protection plans

Linking outcomes and the three conditions: this outcome is critical to delivery of health & independence outcome. 'More businesses and more jobs' – job opportunities for young people leaving education, and young people skilled and 'job ready'. Build Strong Communities – parents as partners in education; links between schools and employers to improve careers guidance/skills; links with voluntary bodies to support young people's volunteering/personal development; Darlo Care Crew –Looked After Children's volunteering. Spend every pound wisely - early intervention improves outcomes and reduces service demand and costs. Grow the economy – preparing young people to work in the modern local economy and retaining our young people in the borough.

Where's the detail: Children and Young People's Plan 2014-2017; Health and Wellbeing Strategy (in development); Single Needs Assessment.

A safe & caring community

Overview: this outcome embraces the traditional community safety agenda, the safeguarding of vulnerable people and, importantly in the context of this plan, the need to build stronger community-based ways of ensuring that we care for each other, our communities and our environment so that, as far as possible we take responsibility for ourselves and each other, enabling the public services to focus their resources on those with the most substantial or critical needs. Darlington is a safer place to live; crime is falling. Overall crime reduced by 16% between 2011/12 and 2012/13. Incidents of anti-social behaviour have reduced by 38% during the same period.

Recent progress:

- Tackling Anti-social Behaviour : greater focus on restorative justice; with the Police and Youth Offending Service with the launch of the Neighbourhood Resolution Project in November 2013 using volunteers to resolve low level ASB.
- Find new and improved ways to work together: The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) has been set-up to focus efforts of the Council, Police and Health Organisations address Safeguarding concerns of Children and Adults across the Borough.
- Good Friends Scheme: the launch of Good Friends has organised volunteers to help support their neighbours, whether to help with everyday errands from gardening to shopping.

Key issues and future needs:

- Perceptions of crime are more negative than the actual crime rates would suggest.
- The recruitment and retention of those willing to give up their time for projects like the Good Friends Scheme and the Neighbourhood Resolution Project needs to be maintained and strengthened.

Priorities for change:

- Ensuring momentum continues, with more people is giving up time to take part in Voluntary projects.
- To continue to develop new and innovative, community-led initiatives to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour.
- To challenge the negative perceptions of crime.

One Darlington/inequality indicators:

- Number of active volunteers
- Number of reported crimes

Linking outcomes and the three conditions: the existence of strong communities in Darlington will aid delivery of this outcome immeasurably, dependent as it is on a strong CVS sector during the current period of economic hardship. Volunteering schemes, such as 'Good Friends' and 'Darlington Cares', are an excellent start in utilising volunteers to make Darlington a safer and more caring town and we hope to initiate more schemes to help tackle more complex problems, such as child protection and prolific offenders. Innovative new programmes like restorative justice and community panels also have a key role in delivering this outcome. By fulfilling our commitment to ensure public funds are spend efficiently we will also help meet this outcome by focusing on early intervention measures, integrated planning, investment and collaboration with relevant partners and user involvement. Finally, economic growth is a key requirement for ensuring a safe and caring community in Darlington as it tackles the deprivation which is so often a cause of social problems.

Where's the detail: Adult Social Care and the Community Safety Partnership

More people active and involved

Overview: whilst the 'More people healthy and independent' outcome is concerned with the wider determinants of health, this outcome homes in on individuals' lifestyles and the promotion of preventative health measures. It is also about being active and involved as a citizen and the role of the voluntary sector, and particularly the eVOLution Volunteering Centre is central. Both the physically active and active citizen aspects will come together in the innovative 'Healthy Darlington' lifestyle improvement service, with the Dolphin Centre as its hub. This will focus on healthy lifestyle guidance but will be able to signpost people to opportunities in the community to develop activity and involvement.

Recent progress:

- Healthy Darlington is a new approach to supporting the people of Darlington to Eat Well, Move More, and Live Longer, launching in April 2014. This will enable provision across all of the lifestyle improvement areas to be consolidated into a new single lifestyle intervention service hub in the Dolphin Centre
- Sports Development and School Games projects had over 25,000 visits in 2013 with 27 different sports/activities taking place. The 2013 Active People survey demonstrated an increase in adult participation levels for Darlington to 25.8% from 23.7% in 2012
- Darlington Sports Development and School Games Teams have supported local clubs, schools, sports facilities and coaches in applying for funding bids/grant applications of up to £337,800.
- Groups who need help to become active are supported by both the Sports Development Team and through subsidised access to facilities

Key issues and future needs:

- The health of people in Darlington is generally worse than the England average. Life expectancy for men is lower than the England average.
- In Year 6, 18.0% of children are classified as obese.
- Estimated levels of adult 'healthy eating', smoking and obesity are worse than the England average.

Priorities for change: Priorities in Darlington include reducing early deaths from heart disease, stroke and cancer. As part of a wider strategy for tackling these problems we are trying to increase the level of physical activity residents undertake by:

- **Increasing participation in sports** - centred on community based activity, and making the most of the existing facilities. Partnership working is important, particularly in making links with health partners and health messages. Improving information about opportunities to be active is a key priority.
- **Encouraging club and coach / volunteer development** – quality sport and physical activity infrastructure is crucial to encourage participants to 'Start, Stay and Succeed'. Local clubs and coaches need to be able to ensure a high quality experience for participants.
- **Improving Health and Wellbeing** – Linking sport and physical activity to health is a priority, with a particular focus on workplace health and active transport. Better advocacy of the benefits of regular physical activity at both local and national levels is vital.
- **Increasing participation of young people** – Increased school to club links has been identified as an area for development, as has the need to address the needs of specific minority groups.

One Darlington/inequality indicators:

- Increased participation rates
- Reduced inactivity rates
- Reduced disparities in population-group participation rates
- Number of coaches/volunteers/leaders
- Relevant PH outcomes framework indicators

Linking outcomes and the three conditions: the Healthy Darlington service can be an important agent for the Build Strong Communities condition, linking support for healthy living to wider involvement in community activities. 'Making Every Contact Count' is an approach to Spending every pound wisely by integrating lifestyle guidance with sports and leisure provision.

Where's the detail: Healthy Darlington and the Sports Development Team; Darlington Sport and Physical Activity Strategy 2014-2019.

More businesses and more Jobs

Overview: Darlington is an ambitious place, with a diverse and resilient economy grown out of a rich tradition of technological and entrepreneurial innovation. Despite the impact of the economic downturn there has been substantial investment and new jobs, housing and opportunities across the borough. We aim to make the most of the borough's assets of location, communications and quality of life to ensure that Darlington achieves long-term sustainable economic growth.

Recent progress:

- Central Park – major regeneration site is bringing together higher education and world leading innovation in sub-sea engineering, biologics and digital business technology in a single cluster of complementary research, manufacturing and training enterprises
- A town centre cinema, hotel and multi-storey car park will be built in 2014/15, complemented by regeneration of the town centre fringe
- The new public sector hub, with shared office space for the Council and DfE, is being built; it may lead to further public sector innovation and local/central collaboration
- Lingfield Point continues to develop as a new sustainable mixed use community, and attracted 25,000 to the world's first Festival of Thrift
- Rockliffe Hall, one of Europe's best five star hotels and international golf course, is attracting visitors to Darlington from across the world.

Key issues and future needs:

- External perceptions of Darlington and the Tees Valley are sometimes less positive than is justified
- Low earnings levels and working households living in poverty
- Increasing numbers of young people not in work, education or training, and loss of local graduates to jobs in other areas
- Young people leaving education who are not 'work-ready'
- Number of businesses per head of population not as high as national average
- Significant gaps between different areas of the borough in employment rates and prosperity

Action headlines: across the Tees Valley the two main priorities are the creation of a low carbon economy; and a *diverse economy (wording?)*. Within these broad aims, in Darlington we will:

- Make Darlington the **right place** for business by promoting it to business, investors and visitors within and beyond the UK; and support economic growth by developing the cultural, leisure, retail and housing offer to attract investors and visitors
- Make sure the **right people** are available to support economic growth by improving the skills of the labour force to match the needs of employers; and by retaining talent in the local labour market.
- Get the **right infrastructure** in place for economic growth, including better broadband capacity and transport and power networks
- Create the **right conditions** for business, by helping to create supply chain opportunities in the public and private sectors; developing sector action plans to maximize economic opportunities; developing a business support offer that caters for all businesses; and getting the right mix of new start-up and grow-on property available.

One Darlington/inequality indicators:

- Overall employment and economic activity rates
- Gross Value Added (GVA)
- Skills measure
- Attainment of NVQs
- Unemployment inequality
 - worklessness in the 5 best and 5 worst wards;
 - worklessness amongst under 24s compared to all ages

Linking outcomes and the three conditions: progress with this outcome is the key to putting the 'Growing the economy' condition (see page 8) in place. It will generate conditions and resources to support the other outcomes, in particular 'Children with the best start in life', 'More people active and involved' and 'More people healthy and independent', primarily through increased employment and prosperity. Applying the 'Spend every pound wisely' condition will require close co-operation with business and investors to ensure economic interventions are designed to reduce inequality and maximise benefits across the eight outcomes.

Where's the detail: the [Economic Strategy for Darlington 2012-2016](#) details how these broad priorities will be addressed.

More people caring for our environment

Overview: the environment is an important asset in contributing to the good quality of life in Darlington, sustaining nature and creating an impression that attracts visitors and investors in jobs and facilities. The challenge is to protect and enhance our environment whilst reducing the cost to the public purse of maintenance. For example, the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan requires a saving of £600,000 in grounds maintenance to enable us to live within our means and this will require all of us to take more responsibility for looking after our surroundings.

Recent progress:

- West Park provides a model for the future, with a levy on households in the development paying for maintenance of the park and surrounding green areas; housing developments at Central Park and Lingfield Point are likely to adopt this model
- Friends groups are involved in the management of various parks and nature reserves, providing a template for future community involvement
- A Green Infrastructure Strategy has been developed, to guide future care and enhancement of the green environment
- Household waste recycling rates are amongst the best in the country, and only 28% of waste is now sent to landfill
- Travel by walking, cycling and bus is an aspect of environmental care, and roll-out of a £4M sustainable travel programme continues

Key issues and future needs:

- Whilst recycling rates are good, we need to minimise the total waste sent for reprocessing, to reduce processing costs; we also need to further reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill to approx. 20%
- The cost of waste collection must be reduced
- We need to engage people in developing new approaches and responsibilities for environmental care, e.g. less litter dropped and more picked up, and expanding the Friends model into street care
- The borough's green infrastructure must be protected and enhanced as an integral component of sustainable development, and not sacrificed to economic growth

Action headlines:

- Implement the Green Infrastructure Strategy to create and maintain a high quality environment for people, wildlife and new development
- Encourage and support Friends Groups, allotment associations and community groups to take over the management and maintenance of environmental assets such as parks, nature reserves and open spaces
- Expand community involvement into new approaches to street care and litter management (dropping less and picking up more), building on the existing network of Street Champions
- Ensure the environment counts in, and contributes to, regeneration and development projects and programmes
- Implement a new household waste collection regime based on alternative weekly collections aimed at reducing collection and processing costs, waste minimisation and increased recycling rates
- Continue to promote sustainable travel to reduce CO² emissions

One Darlington/inequality indicators:

- | | |
|--|---|
| • Local environment quality survey | • People satisfied with their local area as a place to live |
| • Household waste recycled and composted | • Number of people involved in environmental care groups |
| • Municipal waste landfilled | • Greenhouse gas emissions |
| • Trips made by sustainable travel modes | • Improved local biodiversity |

Linking outcomes and the three conditions:

This outcome is a priority area for the Build Strong Communities condition to develop new cost-reducing ways of working with improved community outcomes. The environment is a vital asset in contributing to the More businesses more jobs outcome, in getting people active and involved in environmental care, and in promoting mental and physical health through contact with and activity in the green environment

Where's the detail: Green Infrastructure Strategy 2012-2026; Making Waste Work web page; Sustainable Darlington web page;

Enough support for people when needed

Overview: there is a public duty to support those who are vulnerable and in need of care services. Demand on the statutory services is increasing whilst resources are reducing. We are developing innovative ways to plan and deliver future service provision, with a prominent role for community-based support services. Council and NHS resources must be targeted on those with substantial and critical needs, with the emphasis on preventative support to keep people out of hospital or long term care, and sufficient time limited support for those requiring crisis intervention with reablement back into independent living.

Recent progress:

- The recent Peer Review found that Darlington has “partnerships to die for” and a firm foundation for effective integrated services
- The Long Term Conditions Collaborative is enabling around 130 people with long-term limiting conditions to access peer support
- The Better Care Fund will improve access to support through 7 day working, named professional support and NHS/Council service integration, focused on keeping people out of hospital and providing sufficient support to maintain independence.
- The national Adult Social Care Outcome Framework (ASCOF) will help us locally to measure how well we are meeting local needs and priorities and to improve the integration of health and social care.
- The Responsive Integrated Assessment Care Service (RIACT) is an integrated hub of health and social care staff receiving referrals from locality based multi-disciplinary teams and able to signpost people on to the most appropriate support services
- Good Friends, a volunteering project led by Age UK, Neighbourhood Watch and Darlington Partnership, has been established to provide the kind of simple support that can avoid the need for more costly interventions
- The Council is working with MIND, Age UK, First Stop and DAD to develop Co-production services, linked to Good Friends and RIACT, designed to offer community-based contact and support as an appropriate alternative to more costly clinical interventions

Key issues and future needs:

- Darlington needs more community-based support services like Good Friends to participate in the new ways of working required to deliver the required changes; the Council and NHS need the options available to enable them to signpost people to the most appropriate and cost-effective support, and concentrate their resources on substantial and critical needs
- The draft Care Bill will introduce a national framework of criteria for assessing needs and prioritising services; this is likely to be similar to Darlington’s current policy of offering service to substantial and critical needs, but will require staff to adapt to the changes in ways of working that will be embedded in the Care Act
- Even with a range of community-based support services in place, there will be insufficient resources for health and social care services to offer existing levels of service to all needs assessed as substantial and critical, and new ways of working will be required

Action headlines:

- Participate fully in ASCOF to benchmark the development of integrated health/social care services to provide efficient and sufficient services to meet local needs
- Progress the Co-production partnership project to develop community support services
- Progress Better Care Fund application and implement its proposals for an integrated health and social care service focused on users’ needs

One Darlington/inequality indicators:

Linking outcomes and the three conditions:

Where’s the detail:

A place designed to thrive

Overview: this outcome is about creating the environmental and infrastructure conditions needed to deliver most of the other outcomes. Planning, housing and transport strategies and investment combine to provide the physical foundations for improving the local economy, promoting healthy living and tackling inequality. Darlington has strong assets in this regard, and excellent plans and prospects for improvements to the environment and infrastructure. The cultural offer remains strong, with the Civic Theatre, Theatre Hullabaloo and Festival of Thrift as notable assets. Creative Darlington is developing innovative approaches to supporting and delivering the arts.

Recent progress:

- There is complete coverage of up-to-date Place plans
- The local housing market is strengthening and a Council house building programme will deliver 60 new homes for rent in 2014/15
- There is good progress towards delivering 8000 new jobs, 6700 new homes and 650 new businesses in four major growth zones
- New economic sectors are emerging - Biologics, Sub-Sea and Advanced Engineering, Logistics and Digital
- Central Park is progressing as a key growth point in Tees Valley
- Creative Darlington is leading innovative arts development; Festival of Thrift and Theatre Hullabaloo are particular cultural assets
- Transport infrastructure is being improved - Inner Ring Road; a £4M sustainable travel programme; Tees Valley Bus Network projects
- Bank Top Station - Tees Valley strategic project

Key issues and future needs:

- Providing sufficient new homes to meet local needs
- A sustainable future for Durham Tees Valley Airport
- The impact of HS2 on the East Coast Mainline
- Local traffic pinch points and accessibility for walkers and cyclists
- Retaining the quality of place that makes Darlington attractive for residents and investors alike

Action headlines:

- Deliver the infrastructure strategies and improvements needed to support Perfectly Placed outcomes including: Durham Tees Valley Airport and East Coast Mainline futures; Bank Top Station improvements; A1/A66 enhancements; Inner Ring Road works; tackling local traffic pinch points; high speed broadband roll-out; River Skerne flood relief works; carrying out sustainable travel programme to ensure economic growth does not cause traffic congestion
- Facilitate development to provide jobs, homes and facilities, and generate new businesses in the Central Park, Town Centre, Town Centre Fringe, Eastern Fringe and North West Fringe growth zones
- Deliver the Council homes building programme
- Maintain an attractive town centre and cultural/leisure offer
- Prepare for growth and prosperity through development of key sectors: biologics, sub-sea engineering; digital design/manufacture; logistics; advanced engineering and public/service sectors
- Implement Place strategies and plans to secure high quality development to support delivery of wider outcomes

One Darlington/inequality indicators:

- Town centre footfall; vacant shops
- Average journey speed
- Highway condition
- Satisfaction with cultural offer
- Housing & employment land availability compared to need
- Satisfaction with local area
- New homes delivered
- Affordable homes delivered

Linking outcomes and the three conditions: underpins the 'Grow the economy' condition, contributes to generating more businesses and more jobs, and therefore healthy and independent living and giving children the best start in life.

Where's the detail: Economic Regeneration Strategy; Local Development Framework; Master Plans for Town Centre Fringe & Central Park; Town Centre Regeneration Plan; Green Infrastructure Plan; Housing & Transport Strategies; Creative Darlington Vision and Business Plan

Performance management framework *(to be added)*

Delivery plans



Inside Back Cover – graphic/image incorporating the following quotes

What they are saying about Darlington

These are just some of the things that people, from local residents to national business leaders, are saying about Darlington. There's much more at..

"...a town with a great history, a wonderful now and a fantastic future."

"...a perfect location for logistics"

"Heritage of hard work, innovation and discovery..."

"We are here because of the infrastructure and access to skills – Darlington came out in the top two in our

"Quality of life is just great"

"...a town that really encourages entrepreneurship"

"We're very excited about Darlington as a great place to work, play and live"

"Ingenuity, pioneering, forward thinking..."

"The whole offer of the town, its leisure, its culture, its environment...attracts people and makes them want to stay"

"Magical, an experience, vibrant"

"We are delighted to be coming here...to build the National Biologics Centre"

"A great town with a big heart"

'I just love it', says Duncan Bannatyne of Dragon's Den, who has lived and worked in Darlington for over 30 years.

Back cover - graphics, partners, logos