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**OVERVIEW OF LEISURE AND LOCAL ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO**

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1. Since the last meeting of Council, the following are the main areas of work undertaken under the Leisure and Local Environment Portfolio.

**Town Centre Parking – Multi Storey Car Park**

2. In January 2015 the construction of a 650 space multi-storey car park commenced and is progressing well. It is expected to open in January 2016.
3. We have given consideration to the operation of the new town centre car park including the name of the car park, charging policy for blue badge holders, motorcycles and electric vehicles and plans to ensure that visitors are aware of parking options within the town centre, particularly during the run up to Christmas.
4. Since Autumn 2014 the Council has offered an extra hour free parking in all off-street car parks for drivers paying for two or more hours parking. It has now been agreed that a 'Free after Three' parking offer will be implemented on the five Thursdays before Christmas 2015.
5. With the exception of Shopmobility customers, Blue Badge holders will pay the same tariff for parking in the multi-storey car park as other drivers; and the cost of parking for motorcycles and electric vehicles will be the same as that for other vehicles.
6. The new multi-storey car park will be given the name 'Feethams Car Park'.

**Stonebridge Strengthening Works**

7. Work is underway on the Stonebridge refurbishment scheme. The traffic diversion proposals for the town centre are in place. The first phase of the refurbishment work will continue up until 7 December 2015 and then re-commence after a break for Christmas on 6 January 2016 subject to the proposed programme being achieved.

**Central Park South Junction and Spine Road**

8. A scheme to provide a traffic signal controlled junction on Yarm Road to provide access into the southern portion of Central Park commenced in July 2015. The first few months involved the diversion of a number of services, such as electricity, BT cables, gas, etc. We are now on with the main construction phase which involves

providing a significantly widened junction onto Green Street, widening of Green Street itself and associated works on Yarm Road. This element of the scheme is programmed to be completed towards the end of February 2016.

9. The next phase will then commence which involves the construction of a spine road through the middle of the development site. This will enable development to come forward and there are already two developments proposed in the area, the National Horizons Centre and the Factories for the Future development that is proposed for the Centre for Process Innovation. This is in addition to the two existing facilities that opened recently, the National Biologic Centre and Business Central. The spine road is due for completion towards the end of 2016.

### **Highway Maintenance Schemes**

10. Recently completed schemes:

- (a) A1150 Whinfield Road – Carriageway Refurbishment
- (b) A68 Bondgate – Carriageway Refurbishment

11. Ongoing schemes:

- (a) Footway Micro Asphalt Contract 2015 – 28 Sites
- (b) Springfield Road – Footway Refurbishment
- (c) Baxby Terrace - Footway Refurbishment

12. Schemes due to commence:

- (a) Estoril Road – Carriageway Reconstruction
- (b) A68 duals - A1M to Swanhouse Roundabout - Carriageway resurfacing
- (c) Stanhope Road/Abbey Rd/Duke Street Roundabout - Carriageway resurfacing

### **Local Transport Plan**

13. A new walking and cycling route has been completed through Sugar Hill Park linking Bates Avenue to Prior Street. Funded from the Local Transport Plan and a contribution from the former Alderman Leach Primary School site housing developer, the route provides a safer and pleasant route to Holy Family RC Primary School and St Mary's Cockerton CE Primary School. A short video clip has been made of the route and used to promote it via Local Motion social media and website.
14. A scheme to provide a mini roundabout at the junction of Parkside and Grange Road was completed at the start of October 2015. The main reason for the scheme was to provide a speed reduction feature on Grange Road. It was also to improve egress from Parkside which could be difficult at peak times. As part of the scheme a 40mph 'buffer' was implemented from the entrance into Blackwell Grange up to the new roundabout.

## Public Transport

15. The Council is renewing all concessionary bus passes that expire on 31 March 2016. Concessionary bus pass holders were invited to let us know of any changes to their personal details, to ensure their new bus pass is posted to the correct address. Letters have also been sent to all customers whose concessionary bus pass photo is more than five years old and these letters have been sent out on a phased basis over the past few months, alphabetically based on surname. Pass holders were also invited to attend the Customer Service Centre to have their photograph updated, with all photographs due to be updated by the end of December 2015. In the new year customers will be reminded to let us know if their address changes and that their new pass will be posted to them before March 2016.
16. Arriva made improvement to its bus services in Darlington with effect from 25 October. The Service 2 and X75/X76 Sunday timetables were revised to improve punctuality. In response to feedback from residents, Service 19 now serves up to the first roundabout in High Grange and a bus stop was installed on High Grange to enable customers to use the enhanced service. At the same time, stops M and T outside the Town Hall swapped around to resolve issues with buses not being able to gain level access to stop M. Arriva also launched a new service, service X67, which is a MAX branded service, operating every 30 minutes, via Haughton Road, the Darlington Eastern Transport Corridor, A66 to Stockton and Middlesbrough. A series of well attended launch events were held in Darlington, in the town centre and Lingfield Point, with TITAN the robot.
17. Public transport marketing – the Young People ‘Your Journey’ campaign used specially designed 20 second cartoon clips, shared using Facebook, You Tube and Twitter. The concepts were designed following focus groups with young people at Bishop Auckland College and Cleveland College of Art and Design. Over 40,000 young people across the Tees Valley engaged with the campaign, which helped 16–20 year olds find out about their sustainable travel options. The campaign directed young people to a bespoke landing page where they could obtain information about walking, cycling and public transport, including information on discounted tickets offered by local bus operators.
18. Christmas Campaign - running across the Tees Valley and southern County Durham from mid-November to the end of December, the ‘More festive, less fuss when you travel by bus’ campaign encourages people to use buses over the busy Christmas period for shopping and leisure journeys. The campaign stresses the benefits travelling by bus can offer for journeys over the festive period i.e. get right to the heart of town, no need for a designated driver, frequent services etc. The campaign compliments efforts to get people to shop locally in their main town centre since these are the shopping destinations best served by local bus services. The campaign will be communicated via a range of media, including bus side/rear adverts, radio, bill boards, bus shelters and online advertising.

## Local Sustainable Transport Fund

19. Local Motion's commuter campaign – 'Turn rush hour into happy hour' – launched in early September with a high profile digital marketing programme across the Tees Valley, designed to draw people to the pledge page of the Local Motion website ([www.dothelocalmotion.co.uk/pledge](http://www.dothelocalmotion.co.uk/pledge)). Commuters were asked to pledge a change in how they travelled. All pledges made during the period 4 September to 11 October were entered into a prize draw to win an iPad mini. The campaign was promoted through online advertising, PR, social media activity and postcards distributed to municipal buildings around the Tees Valley. The campaign achieved 173 additional pledges, 5721 clicks from the on-line advertising and increases in views in sections of the website, including over 6000 visits to the pledge page and over 700 views of the case studies. Google analytics enables better analysis to track marketing effectiveness and media buying/spend.
20. The Travel Safely campaign started in mid-October. The five week online campaign includes all modes of transport including driving. Each week will have a different focus starting with planning for a journey, followed by 'Be Seen', 'Think of yourselves and others', 'Look after your belongings' and ending with Brake Road Safety Week. Darlington has a 'good' road safety track record and this campaign will help to continue the downward trend in road user casualties (as reported by Durham Constabulary). In 2014 all casualties (all modes of travel, all ages, all severity) was 322, the lowest figure over the last five years and significantly lower than the 2005-09 average which was 422. The number of casualties amongst children, age 0-15 was also at its lowest level over the last five years at 29, compared to the 2005-09 average of 52.
21. The new Local Motion website is becoming a more effective tool to both collect data and contacts and to analyse the effectiveness of marketing campaigns and social media activity. The workplace section is being updated to enable better engagement with local businesses and the schools section reflects the new MEGA Motion campaign. The journey planner (provided by a link to the Connect Tees valley website) has been updated and google maps now provides real time information on buses and trains via bus stop and rail station icons.
22. The Personalised Travel Planning project has been delivered in Darlington focusing on new housing developments that have not been visited by Local Motion Travel Advisors in previous years. These included 898 residential developments at Lingfield Point, Central Park, the former Mowden rugby club site, Minors Crescent, Brinkburn Road, Celandine Close, Lapwing Drive, Spindle Grove and the Feethams Development. Residents who expressed a desire to change their travel behaviour (indicated from the target areas last year) were revisited as part of a measuring mechanism to evaluate the value PTP work has had on residents in Darlington.
23. Travel Advisors worked successfully with Capita and its employees at the Mowden site to deliver bespoke journey planning advice ahead of the relocation of 400+ staff to Lingfield Point. A travel survey was also undertaken and recommendations and an action plan produced to support the employees. Further workplace engagement with Memorial Hospital has included support with a new workplace

travel plan, a survey across 2,000+ staff, further promotion of sustainable transport initiatives and collaborative work with Durham County Council. All travel plans, are now being tested on a new online system which makes accessing, updating and monitoring the plans going forward much easier to do. This includes the new Travel Plan for the Civic Theatre.

24. Work has also begun with Virgin Trains East Coast who are keen to create travel plans for nine stations on the East Coast Line. Darlington Bank Top Station's travel plan will be produced first and will be key to informing the remaining travel plans in terms of best practice.
25. At the beginning of October the new MEGA Motion campaign was launched in schools. MEGA Motion had previously been limited to primary schools but the new campaign is more inclusive, allowing participation by secondary schools, nurseries and alternative education providers. The programme has been designed to put the emphasis on schools taking part in activities rather than just promoting and recording travel. Schools all received folders full of ideas for practical activities and national/international campaigns and they will have chances to win healthy lifestyle related rewards for taking part. MEGA Motion complements the National School Travel accreditation scheme - Modeshift STARS and all activities will contribute to helping schools to gain accreditation. All primary schools were also provided with Living Streets Walk to School Challenge packs to take part in International Walk to School Month during October. Parent campaigns are being run alongside via social media and schools were provided with calendars for parents to promote these campaigns.
26. This year we have had nine schools achieve a level of Modeshift Accreditation.
  - (a) Carmel College – Bronze
  - (b) Heighington CE Primary – Silver
  - (c) Holy Family RC Primary – Silver
  - (d) St Augustine's RC (Aided) – Silver
  - (e) St George's CE Academy – Silver
  - (f) St John's CE Academy – Silver
  - (g) Federation of Abbey Schools – Gold
  - (h) The Rydal Academy – Gold
27. At the regional Modeshift STARS Awards held in Leeds on 22 October, The Rydal Academy won the award for the Promoting Cycling. The Federation of Abbey Schools won the award for Best Pupil Led Initiative for their music video and was also awarded School of the Region (North East) and will go forward to the national awards which will take place in March 2016.

### **Transfer of Colliery Subsidence Archive**

28. On 8 October 2015, Cabinet approved the permanent transfer of the John Mallon North Eastern Railway Colliery Subsidence Archive to another accredited museum or archive.

29. The John Mallon Collection is jointly owned by this Council (Head of Steam Museum) and the North Eastern Railway Association (NERA). The Museum and the NERA both agreed that the North Eastern Railway Colliery Subsidence section of the collection did not fit into the Museum's current Collections Development Strategy and would be better suited elsewhere.
30. By permanently transferring the archive it will free up much needed space within the Museum's collection stores, therefore improving the overall storage of the remaining collection.

### **Funding Success**

31. Building upon its strong record of supporting community groups and sports clubs to access external funding, the Healthy Darlington Sports Development Team has secured the following successful funding applications over the past three months:
  - (a) Worked with the Football Foundation on a successful funding application of 80 per cent of the total project cost of £512,580 subject to a maximum payment of £412,580 contribution toward the refurbishment of the existing 101m x 67m sand filled Artificial Grass Pitch to form a new floodlit 3G football training pitch at Eastbourne Sports Complex.
  - (b) Successful £100,000 Inspired Facilities application and a £50,000 England Hockey Capital Fund application to support the development of a new sand based artificial surface at Carmel College.
  - (c) Successful £65,000 Inspired Facilities Application to improve the clubhouse facilities at Wellfield Tennis Club
30. Over the past three years the team has successfully secured £1.22M (to enable projects with a value of £2.35M to go ahead) of external grant funding to develop the Sports Infrastructure within Darlington. See **Appendix 1** for successful funding and grant applications. This success has been rooted in really strong partnership working with local sports clubs, schools, national governing bodies and Sport England and the development of robust strategic documents like the Playing Pitch/Sports Facilities strategies, alongside key stakeholders, so that there is an evidence led approach to development.

### **Dolphin Centre Capital Project**

31. The first phase of the project to renew some of the key mechanical and electrical installations within the Dolphin Centre got underway at the end of August following the busy school holiday business period. The Main Pool, Diving Pool and Toddler Pool are currently closed to facilitate these improvements and will reopen early in the New Year. Business interruption is being managed so that all of the School Swimming programme and after school Learn to Swim scheme is sustained through this period in the 25M Training Pool facility, which remains open – this means that the 2000+ children who access swimming lessons at the Centre each week can continue to do so.

## **Healthy Darlington Hub**

32. The work of Healthy Darlington continues to support local people to eat well and move more. During Quarter 2 of 2015-2016 there were 29,365 visits to the Hub for a broad range of services and interventions. This also included 1:1 work with 372 individual clients. Of those who were ready to make a healthy behaviour change, 92 per cent were still engaged and receiving support 12 weeks following their first appointment. Six months after their initial appointment, 59 per cent were still receiving support. Of those retained within the service, 98 per cent reported one or more positive behaviour changes. Examples of self-reported benefits from clients include; a reduction in medication needed to control conditions such as diabetes and blood pressure, weight loss and improved general well-being.
33. In addition to the 1:1 support offered in the Hub, officers also work to develop partnerships with other organisations to ensure that local people know about and are able to access the right support, at the right time and in the right place. Examples of this work includes; a Healthy Darlington Roadshow with hundreds of local Sainsbury's staff as part of their health and wellbeing day delivering Making Every Contact Count brief intervention training sessions, supporting the Darlington Dementia Action Alliance, supporting vulnerable adults to access Healthy Darlington services through links with the 700 Club, DISC and First Stop, and running drop-in health MOT sessions in the local community.

## **Playmakers**

34. 200 primary children have been certified as Playmakers in July – a nationally recognised leadership award. Healthy Darlington, on the back of this, has been awarded Leadership Academy Status by Sports Leaders UK, the first Community Centre to receive this award in the North East. The award was presented on 6 November 2015 and another Playmaker Day also ran on this day.

## **School Swimming Review and Development Framework**

35. Officers have worked with the Amateur Swimming Association to re-design and implement a new School Swimming Assessment Framework for the 2,500 Darlington Years 3 and 4 children who come through the programme at the Dolphin Centre each academic year. This aims to further drive standards in line with the National Plan for Teaching Swimming.

## **Disability Sport**

36. The Dolphin Centre has been confirmed as the venue for the prestigious North East Disability Awards in April 2016. This event was previously held at the Stadium of Light, Sunderland but has been brought to Darlington as an acknowledgement of the commitment to developing Disability Sport by DBC and a whole range of Community Clubs and Schools. The showcase event is attended by a whole range of athletes from Paralympians to grass roots players, coaches and volunteers and is covered extensively through the regional media including BBC News.

## **Adult Disability Project**

37. A further £3k has been secured through Tees Valley Sport to support Disability Sport for 11-25 year olds. This will extend the number of sessions (currently seven) within the town's adult day centres and the Dolphin Centre, delivering a wide variety of sports including Boccia, Table Tennis, Trampoline and New Age Curling. Approximately 45 adults a week are being engaged with attendance of 150+ each month.

## **Move More Card**

38. This project works with Adult Services and a range of organisations within the town including the 700 Club, Creative Support, DISC, YMCA, NECCA to improve Health and Wellbeing for clients. Over the last quarter, the Move More Card Pathway has had 47 referrals into the Hub, with around half of these then going on to attend their first appointment and be supplied with a card.

## **Darlington Civic Theatre**

39. On 25 August, the Lord Lieutenant of County Durham visited the Civic Theatre to hear about the plans for the restoration of the Theatre. The Lord Lieutenant is keen to help in any way possible and is a regular visitor to the Theatre.
40. Following a maintenance period during August, the Civic Theatre reopened on 7 September 2015 with Darlington Festival of Dance organised by Darlington Dance Festival Association, which has become a very successful event celebrating the joy of dance for people of all ages and abilities. This year's theme was 'Legends'. The Theatre's ArtsSpark youth dance company were one of 20 amateur dance companies performing to a packed house.
41. On 11 September 2015 there was a launch event at the Theatre for this year's pantomime, Cinderella. The stars Ashleigh and Pudsey the dog, together with Brendan Sheerin from Coach Trip and Niki Evans from the X Factor were at the Theatre for the day conducting interviews with key media. Sales look to break previous records.
42. Theatre Ambassadors, who are volunteers helping to promote the Theatre to new audiences, visited Northampton Royal and Derngate Theatre on 19 September 2015 as guests of the Touring Consortium Theatre Company to see Brave New World. They were accompanied by a member of the Theatre's marketing team. As well as seeing the show they were also able to have a tour of the stage and meet the cast. This enabled them to acquire additional knowledge to help to promote the show effectively.
43. On 2 October 2015 an event was held at the Theatre hosted by Charles Tompkins, the Chair of Darlington Civic Theatre Foundation, alongside Ada Burns and William Baker-Baker, to launch the fundraising appeal for the restoration of the Theatre to corporate contacts. The event included a tour, an introduction by Charles and a



meal served on stage in a beautifully lit and atmospheric setting. The event was attended by approximately 60 people.

44. The following night a special charity event was held in the Theatre by the Police to create a memorial for officers who have died in service. The show, An Audience with Mark Gatiss, was very well received and attended by over 600 people. Mark spoke warmly about his early acting experiences at the Arts Centre and Civic Theatre.
45. The Pantomime Roadshow, which is specially created to introduce school pupils to the traditions of pantomime, was in Darlington week commencing 5 October 2015 and visited Harrowgate Hill Primary School, Wavell Community Junior School, Firthmoor, Red Hall, Northwood and Gainford Church of England Primary Schools.

### **Tributes in the Market Square**

46. The Tributes event, which was held on 16 August 2015, in the Market Square for a second year, was included as part of the Summer Markets weekend and this proved to be a positive move as it enhanced the weekend's entertainment programme and attracted additional visitors to the town on the Sunday. The event was supported by Heart Radio and included tributes to Freddie Mercury, Pink, Katy Perry, Lady Ga Ga, Amy Winehouse, Michael Jackson and Take That.

### **Rhythm' n' Blues Festival**

47. This year saw over 6,000 visitors to the RnB Festival on 13 September 2015 in the Market Square and surrounding pubs. Headline act Mick Ralphs Band put on a fantastic performance alongside two equally great shows by the warm up acts Eugene 'Hideaway' Bridges and The Mentulls. Great feedback was received by those in attendance and the band members themselves were extremely complementary of the Council's support of Darlington Rhythm and Blues Club.

### **Hell of the North Cycle Ride**

48. On 6 September, 198 cyclists registered for the 100 mile cycle ride organised by Darlington's Events Team. Conditions were near perfect for participants who came from all over the Country and who all thoroughly enjoyed the experience with 111 opting for the T-shirt option payment.

### **Festival of Thrift**

49. The Festival of Thrift 2015 was held on 26 and 27 September 2015 at Lingfield Point, and attracted an estimated 45,000 visits to the festival site over the weekend, and the Festival of Thrift community interest company are currently compiling an evaluation report for the Festival. The programme also included a number of participatory projects and activities working in Darlington schools, and in the community, leading up to the festival weekend. There were some changes to traffic arrangements to access the festival site and public reaction to these appeared

positive.

50. Tying in with the ten year countdown to 2025, the theme of Festival of Thrift 2015 was Steam. On the evening of 25 September 2015, Olivier Grossetete's project to construct a cardboard box tower based on Bank Top station clock tower, with St Cuthbert's Church kindly housing workshops in the week leading up to the festival, brought the Festival of Thrift into Darlington town centre. The tower was raised, Folk Dance Remixed led celebratory dance work, and the tower was then toppled and deconstructed in the market square. Over the weekend Urban Playground performed STEAM, a mix of contemporary dance, street theatre and parkour, on the festival site. Other attractions included the unveiling of the Darlington Building Society backed Darly, a playful interactive sculpture exploring the past and future of industry, rail and pioneering in the North East over the last 200 years, created by visual artist Hannah Fox and sound artist Dan Fox.
51. This year's Festival secured support from a variety of sources, including sponsorship, Lottery, concessions and donations. Darlington Borough Council and Creative Darlington provided budget support.. The Council also provided considerable support in kind, with the events and waste and recycling services particularly engaged, in festival planning and delivery. The Festival of Thrift has been nominated for the North East Tourism Award, with an announcement due on 24 November 2015.

## **Libraries**

### **Summer Events**

52. Multi-Sensory Storytelling in the library saw children with additional needs enjoy short stories with sensory feedback such as ringing a bell, the scent of perfume or the touch of different materials. The session was very well attended and we hope to hold many similar sessions in the future.
53. Two 'Library by the Seaside' events took place over the summer with sand play, ball pits and performances from magicians and puppeteers. These events brought non-library users into the building for an unexpected day of noise, mess and fun.

### **Festival of Thrift**

54. The library set up three camps at the Festival of Thrift. The mobile library was parked in a central location and more than 1,000 people climbed aboard over the weekend.
55. The junior team hosted round the clock Rhyme and Play sessions with music and stories, attracting over 500 pre-school children. The Peoples Encyclopaedia gave the public the opportunity to question local 'experts' on a variety of topics and attracted a lot of interest. Groups contributing an expert included the Darlington Camera Club, High Grow, Darlington Beekeepers, Health and Wellbeing Centre, The Quakers Society, Age UK , Learning and Skills and the Library's own Centre

for Local Studies.

### **Crown Street Library - 130<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

56. On 23 October 2015, Crown Street Library celebrated the anniversary of its opening 130 years ago. Preceding events included author visits, poetry workshop, a visit from 'The History Wardrobe' showcasing costumes worn by Victorian Ladies, Victorian embroidery and tours of the building. On the day we had celebrations for all ages, including a theatre performance for pre-schoolers, a Ukulele group and at noon a cake cutting by His Worship the Mayor. The following day we had parties for children of all ages and a disco with face painters and balloon modelling.

### **Working with our Artist**

57. To leave a lasting legacy and to celebrate our 130<sup>th</sup> year, Crown Street Library commissioned local illustrator and library champion Liz Million to work with the library and local schools to produce some large scale artwork to be permanently displayed in our junior library. The murals were completed with help from pupils at Holy Family and Skerne Park Schools. The artwork was unveiled on our birthday and pupils invited to attend and thanked with a performance from the Big Foot Theatre Company.

### **Author Visits**

58. The library were lucky to secure a visit from Ann Cleeves, bestselling author of the 'Vera' crime novels, as she started her nationwide tour to promote her latest book 'The Moth Catcher'. The evening was a sell-out and resounding success, with great feedback, giving the audience insight into her life, work and the story behind the TV serialisations.

59. On 19 October 2015 Gervais Phinn visited the library to talk about his life, his books and Yorkshire. The event sold out.

### **Centre for Local Studies**

60. Library staff took part in the popular Heritage Open Days and led tour groups around the building; all tours were well supported and fully booked.

### **A Poppy for a Soldier**

57. A project to commemorate the Darlington men who died in the war took place in the Centre for Local Studies and was launched on 1 October 2015 by the Deputy Editor of The Northern Echo, Chris Lloyd. Hundreds of knitted and crocheted poppies were donated and staff invited people to visit the Centre and find out more about the individual soldiers who died.

58. Historian Stephen Nicholson has compiled a database of information about the Darlington men who paid the ultimate sacrifice in the First World War. Using resources in Local Studies and the National Archives, Stephen has recorded the

names, addresses and occupations of the men who died. Stephen's research has been published by The Northern Echo and is available to search for free at [www.thenortheastatwar.co.uk](http://www.thenortheastatwar.co.uk)

59. Staff invited anyone with a family member named on the database to come forward to commemorate their ancestor. However, the event was open to all and members of the public with no personal connection to the men were asked to select a soldier's name from the database and use Stephen's research to discover more about his story. The project ran until 11 November 2015.

### **Kids Gig – Jabberwocky Market**

60. The library worked with the Jabberwocky Market to deliver the first ever 0-10 years Kids Gig in the Children's Library on 3 October 2015; attracting over 100 families with young children the gig was sold out prior to the event showing the popularity of live music.
61. The event ran from 4.00pm to 5.00pm with the Burbank Street Jazz who performed and demonstrated their musical instruments to the enthusiastic audience. The event proved to be a huge success and was repeated on 7 November 2015.

### **Creative Darlington**

#### **Strategic**

62. Creative Darlington was the partner in a Teesside University led programme of research into social enterprise in the creative and cultural sector backed by UnLTD. Creative Darlington will support between two and three pilot studies in creative enterprise in the Tees Valley and has already confirmed support to enable the Festival of Thrift to develop as a creative enterprise, and will work with them to explore how key festivals in the Tees Valley and Darlington may be supported and new events developed going forward. The research project culminated in a conference event at The Forge on 19 September 2015, wherein a research report was shared, headline speeches from sector leaders shared, including a presentation from Creative Dundee that offered interesting comparisons to the Tees Valley, and networking progressed.
63. Creative Darlington worked with representatives of other Tees Valley local authorities on the devolution ask for the arts within Tees Valley as part of the combined authority proposal.
64. Creative Darlington attended a meeting with Tees Valley authorities, national portfolio organisations of Arts Council England and Teesside University in September 2015 to discuss emerging Tees Valley proposals for Arts Council England's strategic touring scheme.
65. Creative Darlington was represented on a panel to select an artist to work with landscaping firm, Southern Green, for a brief to progress indicative costed proposals and guidelines for future development of the Central Park South. The

selection panel met on 28 September 2015 with work expected to be completed in November 2015.

### **Audience Development**

66. Creative Darlington supported the Festival of Thrift 2015 wherein the theme was Steam. Creative Darlington support was focused on activity and projects engaging with community and school groups in Darlington, which included Folk Dance Remix (supported by Debbie Waistell/The D-Project and Dance City) working with local children and young people and French artist Olivier Grossetete's project to launch the festival by developing a five storey model of Bank Top rail station clock tower in the Market Square in Darlington Town Centre, with five days of workshops housed in St. Cuthbert's Church. Creative Darlington advised Marchday to work with a festival producer pre Festival of Thrift 2013 and has supported three subsequent successful applications for Grants for the arts support (c £40k in 2014, c £80k in 2014, c £100k in 2015).
67. Creative Darlington has allocated finance to each of the Jabberwocky Markets, with the fifth to be held within the Battersea Arts Centre led Collaborative Touring Network which ran from 1 to 4 October 2015 and included events throughout Darlington Town Centre, with participating venues including the Mercure Kings Hotel, the Quaker Meeting House, Be Premiere Hair, Crown Street Library, Bradbury House and the Liddiard Theatre.
68. Creative Darlington has confirmed marketing support for Darlington Arts Festival 2016, which will run throughout May 2016.

### **Developing Finance for Arts Activity and work at the Head of Steam Railway Museum**

69. Creative Darlington allocated support to Applause Theatre's presentation of Noel Coward's play Still Life, which the film Brief Encounter was based on, which was performed at the Head of Steam Railway Museum on 9 and 10 October 2015 and which had secured additional support from business.
70. Sara Cooper's Collections Project involved working with students from Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College and a number of Darlington Primary Schools both through outreach and activity at the Head of Steam Railway Museum. The project generated exhibitions at the Town Hall exhibition space and the Head of Steam Railway Museum and encouraged young people to engage with museum collections. The project was supported by Creative Darlington and Arts Council England. In addition to workshops, exhibitions and museum based activity; four original A5 postcard education tools were printed to encourage families with young children to explore the Head of Steam collections going forward. The Museum worked with designer Nicola Golightly to develop this resource.
71. Creative Darlington also sign-posted the Head of Steam to engage in a project with Arts and Heritage, supported by Arts Council England, to encourage engagement between ten museums in total from the North East and Yorkshire and

contemporary arts practice. The project has involved networking, research and will generate an original commission of contemporary art to work within the Head of Steam museum setting. Darlington Borough Council is providing officer time and engagement to the Head of Museum Railway Museum to support the project, but no financial contribution was required.

### **Crown Street Art Gallery and Crown Street Library**

72. Creative Darlington manages exhibitions at Crown Street Art Gallery, with curation being provided on a voluntary basis by Darlington resident Norma Kyle. There have been 30 exhibitions at Crown Street Art Gallery since it opened in May 2012 and 67,230 visits from then until 28 September 2015. Since the last report exhibitions have included Encounters, a photography exhibition that attracted 3,472 visits, and Boo! Telling Tall Tales, an art exhibition of children's book illustration that opened on 9 September 2015 and included work by a variety of authors and illustrators, including Peter Barron, John Chadwick, Amy Houghton, Stephen Irving, Kim McDermottroe, Liz Million, Jessica Shepherd, Stuart Trotter (who currently illustrates Rupert the Bear), Paul Wick and David Wright. A special opening event was held in the library on the morning of 12 September 2015 to launch Boo!, with children from Stagecoach performing alongside a reading by Peter Barron from one of his Monstrous Morals books.
73. Creative Darlington is supporting Joelene English Dance Theatre in bringing two ticketed performances of 'February 11 1963', a dance performance, informed by the life and work of Sylvia Plath to Crown Street Art Gallery on 30 October 2015. The project secured a Grant for the Arts award from Arts Council England and local schools were offered accompanying workshop opportunities.

### **The Town Hall Gallery**

74. North Yorkshire based artist Susan Williams exhibited at the Town Hall exhibition space from 3 August to 25 September 2015, during which time she also staged two pop-up shops in the Town Hall and secured a number of commissions. The current exhibition is by Abigail Dennison, a recent design graduate, on her Sunday Girl project, the development of an original magazine which is being stocked by a number of high street retail outlets and various cultural venues.

### **Head of Steam Museum**

#### **North East Railways in WW1**

75. The funding for the HLF project North Eastern Railways in WW1 came to an end on 30 September 2015. There are now details of approximately 8,500 enlisted men available on the Council website, 3,000 of which have photographs. The museum will continue the project until all relevant archival material has been researched with help from a team of 12 volunteers.

## **Exhibitions and Events**

76. The 190<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Stockton and Darlington Railway took place on 26 and 27 September 2015 and was a great success. Over 1,050 people visited the museum over the weekend where visitors were greeted by character actors, George Stephenson and Edward Pease.
77. To celebrate 'Railway Month' the museum was host to four exhibitions: 'Mail Rail' a touring exhibition from the British Postal Museum showcasing the hidden Post Office Underground Railway; 'Lost Property!' an exhibition of photographs of Darlington's long vanished railway heritage curated by the North Eastern Railway Association; 'Off the Beaten Track' an exhibition of digital prints of locomotives by local artist Martin Thorpe; and a display showing the recently re-discovered banner of the Bishop Auckland Branch of the National Union of Railwaymen on loan from the Bishop Auckland Station History Group.

## **Waste Services**

78. It is now over a year since the new Revised Weekly Collection service for refuse and recycling was introduced across the Borough. Whilst the service has settled down and is performing well, there have been some problems with contamination where residents have been placing plastic bags and crisp packets into the recycling material. To address this, a label was placed on bins informing residents not to put plastic bags in the recycling material. This has been successful and contamination is starting to reduce.

## **Grass Cutting**

79. The teams are currently undertaking their last cut of the season and no issues have been experienced during the course of the summer. The teams are also now commencing the annual winter pruning programme for hedges, shrubs, etc.

## **Environmental Crime**

80. The Dog Warden service has once again achieved the RSPCA's Gold Stray Dog Footprint Award. This is recognition for the service and the care it affords dogs when in the care of Darlington Borough Council.

**Councillor Nick Wallis**  
**Cabinet Member with Leisure and Local Environment Portfolio**

## Appendix 1

<b>Funding and Grant successful applications</b>					
<b>Date</b>	<b>Who the grant was for?</b>	<b>Grant money</b>	<b>Overall cost</b>	<b>Who funded the grant?</b>	<b>What the money was/will be used for?</b>
Apr-15	Darlington Rugby Club	£135,000.00	£210,000.00	Inspired Facilities	Changing rooms and car park upgrade
Sep-15	Carmel College	£100,000.00	£465,000.00	Inspired Facilities	New Artificial sports pitch
Sep-15	Carmel College	£50,000.00	£465,000.00	England Hockey Capital Fund	New Artificial sports pitch
Jul-15	Eastbourne Sports Complex	£412,580.00	£512,580.00	Premier League Facilities Fund	New 3G pitch
Sep-13	Active Darlington Project	£139,000.00	£240,000.00	Community Sport Activation Fund	Community delivery over a three year project
Apr-13	Darlington Gymnastics Club	£50,000.00	£130,000.00	Inspired Facilities	New building for the club to train
Sep-12	Rockliffe Cricket Club	£50,000.00	£50,000.00	Inspired Facilities	New pavilion for the club
Mar-14	Darlington Storm	£10,000.00	£10,000.00	Sport England Small Grants	Club development work
Jun-13	Table Tennis Academy	£10,000.00	£10,000.00	Sport England Small Grants	Club development work
Nov-13	Powerchair Football Club	£10,000.00	£10,000.00	Sport England Get Equipped Fund	New purpose built wheelchairs
Sep-14	Disability Project	£6,500.00	£6,500.00	Tees Valley Sport	Move More disability project
Sep-12	Darlington Bowls Club	£50,000.00	£50,000.00	Inspired Facilities	New bowls carpet
Nov-14	Darlington Golf Club	£50,000.00	£50,000.00	Inspired Facilities	New driving range to be built
Jan-13	Gentleman and Lady Archers	£10,000.00	£10,000.00	Sport England Small Grants	Club development work
Nov-13	Darlington Triathlon Club	£6,500.00	£6,500.00	Sport England Small Grants	New equipment for the club
Mar-14	Table Tennis Academy	£5,000.00	£5,000.00	County Durham Foundation	New tables
Jan-13	Darlington Bowls Club	£5,000.00	£5,000.00	County Durham Foundation	New scoreboard
Jan-13	Cycling project	£16,500.00	£16,500.00	Department for Transport Fund	Cycling delivery
Ongoing	Sportivate Fund	£20,000.00	£20,000.00	Sport England Sportivate Fund	Engaging 14-25 year olds
Ongoing	Coach Bursary	£5,000.00	£5,000.00	Tees Valley Sport	Coach Development



Date	Who the grant was for?	Grant money	Overall cost	Who funded the grant?	What the money was/will be used for?
Sep-14	Doorstep Clubs	£5,000.00	£5,000.00	Street Games	Doorstep club delivery eg #TheZone
Sep-15	Wellfield Tennis Club	£75,000.00	£75,000.00	Inspired Facilities	Changing room improvements
	<b>Total</b>	£1,221,080.00	£2,357,080.00		
<b><u>Pending Applications</u></b>					
Jan-16	Cockerton Cricket Club	£45,000.00	£45,000.00	Inspired Facilities	Improve drainage and ground
Jan-16	Darlington Cricket Club	£20,000.00	£40,000.00	Inspired Facilities	New artificial net facility
Pending	Dinsdale Golf Club	£50,000.00	£50,000.00	Inspired Facilities	New driving range
	<b>Total</b>	£115,000.00	£135,000.00		