



Communities and Local Services Scrutiny Committee Agenda

10.00 am

Thursday, 13 June 2024

Council Chamber, Town Hall, Darlington DL1 5QT

Members of the Public are welcome to attend this Meeting.

1. Introductions/Attendance at Meeting
2. Appointment of Chair for the Municipal Year 2024/25
3. Appointment of Vice-Chair for the Municipal Year 2024/25
4. Declarations of Interest
5. To consider the times of meetings of this Committee for the Municipal Year 2024/25 on the dates agreed in the Calendar of Meetings by Cabinet at minute C106/Feb/24
6. To approve the Minutes of the meeting of this Scrutiny held on 18 April 2024 (Pages 3 - 6)
7. Darlington Cultural Strategy Action Plan for 2024/2025 – Report of the Group Director of Services (Pages 7 - 48)
8. Work Programme – Report of the Assistant Director Law and Governance (Pages 49 - 58)
9. SUPPLEMENTARY ITEM(S) (if any) which in the opinion of the Chair of this Committee are

of an urgent nature and can be discussed at the meeting.

10. Questions

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Luke Swinhoe', written in a cursive style.

Luke Swinhoe
Assistant Director Law and Governance

Wednesday, 5 June 2024

Town Hall
Darlington.

Membership

Councillors Coe, Mrs Culley, Garner, Haszeldine, Keir, Mahmud, McGill, M Nicholson, Snedker and Walters

If you need this information in a different language or format or you have any other queries on this agenda please contact Olivia Hugill, Democratic Officer, Operations Group, during normal office hours 8.30 a.m. to 4.45 p.m. Mondays to Thursdays and 8.30 a.m. to 4.15 p.m. Fridays
email: olivia.hugill@darlington.gov.uk

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Thursday, 18 April 2024

PRESENT – Councillors McGill (Chair), Coe, Mrs Culley, Garner, Mahmud, M Nicholson, Snedker and Walters

APOLOGIES – Councillors Cossins and Keir

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE – Councillors McCollom and Dr. Riley

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE – Ian Thompson (Assistant Director Community Services), Brian Graham (Head of Environmental Services), Graham Hall (Head of Community Safety), Paul Branch (CCTV & Security Control Centre Manager), Christine Booth (Private Sector Housing Manager), Lynne Davies (Strategy and Policy Manager) and Olivia Hugill (Democratic Officer)

CLS39 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Garner declared an interest in the Tree and Woodland Strategy due to a Tree Preservation Order at his property. Councillor Walters declared an interest in the Private Sector Housing Strategy due to the ownership of rental properties in Darlington.

CLS40 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THIS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:

Submitted – The Draft Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 22 February 2024.

Resolved – That the Minutes of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 22 February be approved as a correct record.

CLS41 TREE AND WOODLAND STRATEGY 2021 - 2031

The Group Director of Services submitted a report (previously circulated) to provide members with an update on delivery of actions within the strategy, the proposed 2024/25 and revised approach to risk management and climate declaration.

The submitted report covered the aim of the Tree and Woodland Strategy which was to proactively manage and enlarge the tree population of the Borough of Darlington in order to protect our historical heritage of trees and provide a valued environmental amenity for future generations.

The report stated the following aspects which the strategy covered: How the Council manages trees that they own, how the Council protected trees on private land, an action plan setting out what needs to be done over the next five years.

The report mentioned the policies in which the strategy covered: Street Trees, Woodlands, Trees in Parks and Open Spaces, Trees in Cemeteries and Disused Churchyards, Housing Area Trees, Privately Owned Trees.

The report stated the key highlights of the work completed so far; 37,571 trees had been

planted since 2022. The report reflected the eight successful funding applications from 2021 to date which totalled at £533,975.94.

The report also covered the Risk Management, Risk Management Tree Inspections New Approach, how tree inspections are completed, recorded and who by, the timescale of inspections, Tree works, Climate Declaration and Monitoring.

Members discussed how the Council managed trees on land that is not owned by them, officers explained that the landowners were responsible for the risk and safety management of that tree. Tree Preservation Orders were discussed by the Committee and at what stage is planning permission required.

Members queried the total numbers of trees in the borough the Council is responsible for and how tree inspections can be carried out due to the vast amount.

Members discussed the Ash Dieback disease, if there were any issues of this in the borough and the risk assessments in place for this. Members queried the risk assessments around the root lifting in roads and if this hazard had been identified for wheelchair users etc.

RESOLVED – That the report content and proposed action plan for 2024/25 be noted.

CLS42 CCTV CAMERA REPLACEMENT PROGRAMME

The Group Director of Services submitted report (previously circulated) to update members on the Camera Replacement Programme.

The report stated that the review of the CCTV was completed in May 2021 to determine whether the public space CCTV system in Darlington was fit for purpose and met operational requirements.

The report stated that the review established that the Internet Protocol (IP) cameras installed in the town centre produced high equality images and met operational requirements, however, the images from the legacy analogue cameras were soft and compared poorly to the IP Cameras. The review concluded that the analogue cameras should be replaced with new technology and a delivery programme was agreed.

The report detailed that Darlington Borough Council operates a Public Space CCTV system throughout the Borough which primarily supports the Council Plan objectives of keeping the Borough safe.

The report stated that through the Home Office Safer Streets 2 Fund, the Council were awarded £230,400 to introduce 17 additional cameras in and around Darlington Town Centre (including subways). Included in the total amount was £54,510 which was match funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner office.

Members discussed how the CCTV Replacement Programme had been funded, if CCTV was implemented in areas of the Borough which were higher in criminal offences would this stop any crimes being committed.

Members wanted to understand whether facial recognition is in use in Darlington, officers advised that this is something in the future that could be looked at. Members wanted to understand if there were any risks assessments in place if a cyber-attack were to take place.

RESOLVED – That the contents of this report be noted.

CLS43 PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING

The Group Director of Services submitted a report (previously circulated) that provided members with an update on the Private Sector Housing Strategy and Service Area update.

The report stated the strategy's three core aims: Aim 1 – Decent quality homes in the private rented sector, Aim 2 – Enable growth in the private rented sector, Aim 3 – Working with and supporting all residents in Darlington.

The report detailed that around 80% of Darlington's 51,885 homes were in the private rented sector. The Private Rented Sector had more than doubled size in the last 15 years to 2021, this has now stabilised and has been estimated to be 20% of the housing market, approximately 8,875 properties.

The submitted report outlined that there are increasing demand and duties on the service area, some of the existing and future challenges which include empty properties which are expected to rise in the short term as private landlords are evaluating their market position and there has been an increase in energy efficiency advice requests both owner occupiers and private rented.

Members questioned the process for inspections on Private Rented Properties, and how landlords respond to the inspections.

RESOLVED – That the contents of the report be noted.

CLS44 COUNCIL PLAN 2024 - 2027

The Chief Officers Executive submitted a report (previously circulated) to introduce the draft Council Plan to the Committee.

The Council Plan outlined the long-term ambitions for Darlington and priorities of the Council to deliver over the next three years.

The submitted draft plan stated strategic direction to the Council, Council services, defining priorities and shaping delivery. The draft plan gave clarity to residents, businesses, and stakeholders on the Council's values and what is important and what they will do.

The public consultation for the draft plan had been opened and will run till the 25 April. The plan stated that the Council was seeking views from residents, businesses, charities, and key stakeholders. The Council Plan once finalised goes to Cabinet and Council in May for approval and adoption.

The draft Council Plan expressed three core values which fed into the plan: which addressed

inequalities, tackling climate change and efficient an effective use of resources.

The six priorities of the draft Council Plan show equal importance: Economy, Homes, Living Well, Children and Young People, Communities and Environment.

The report stated the political accountability for the priorities and core values for the draft plan, how it will be collaborative with a Cabinet Member leading each priority, core value and working with relevant portfolio leads to delivered.

Councillors McCollom and Dr Riley explained the priorities within the Stronger Communities and Local Services Portfolio areas, such as the Hopetown attraction.

Members appreciated the approach which will lead to better outcomes but wanted clarification around vague wording.

Members discussed their concerns around biodiversity and the nature emergency which should be reflected in the Councils plan.

Members wanted to clarify how many responses were received from the public during consultation so far. Officers explained there has been 199 responses which has been, an improvement compared to previous Council Plan consultations.

RESOLVED – That draft Council Plan be noted, and Members share the plan with networks and encourage people to complete the survey.

CLS45 WORK PROGRAMME

The Assistant Director Law and Governance submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to this Scrutiny Committee's work programme and to consider any additional areas which Members would like to suggest be included in the work programme.

Members discussed which areas they would like to see on the work programme for the next municipal year.

RESOLVED – That the work programme be noted.

**COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
13 JUNE 2024**

DARLINGTON CULTURAL STRATEGY ACTION PLAN FOR 2024/2025

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To update members on progress delivering the priorities in the Darlington Cultural Strategy 2022-2026 and the 2023/24 Action Plan.
2. For members to consider the Action Plan for 2024/25.

Summary

3. In the Darlington Cultural Strategy 2022-2026 (Appendix 1) there is a commitment to submit annual Action Plans for consideration by Scrutiny Members. This report presents a summary of progress for 2023/24 alongside the Action Plan for 2024/25.

Recommendation

4. It is recommended that:
 - (a) Members note the update on progress on the 2023/24 Action Plan
 - (b) Members consider the Action Plan for 2024/25.

**Dave Winstanley
Group Director of Services**

Background Papers

Darlington Cultural Strategy 2022-2026

Darlington Cultural Strategy Action Plan delivery for 2023 to 2024 and Action Plan for 2024 to 2025.

Stephen Wiper: 07970184533

S17 Crime and Disorder	Cultural activities can have a positive impact on crime and disorder by engaging individuals in positive activity.
Health and Wellbeing	Culture can have a positive impact on Health and Wellbeing.
Carbon Impact and Climate Change	This report has no significant impact on Carbon Impact and Climate Change.
Diversity	One of the priorities within Darlington's Cultural Strategy 2022–2026 is for Darlington to have an accessible, diverse and vibrant culture.
Wards Affected	Darlington Cultural Strategy 2022-2026 covers all wards in Darlington Borough.
Groups Affected	Darlington Cultural Strategy 2022-2026 is focused on the population of Darlington Borough, and also considers those working in, visiting or considering establishing or relocating business within Darlington Borough.
Budget and Policy Framework	There is no impact on the budget or policy framework.
Key Decision	This report is not a Key Decision.
Urgent Decision	This is not an Urgent Decision.
Council Plan	Darlington Cultural Strategy 2022-2026 has set out how the Council will deliver its cultural ambitions.
Efficiency	There is no impact on the Council's efficiency agenda.
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	Darlington Cultural Strategy 2022 – 2026 and associated Action Plan for 2024/25 considers cultural access for Looked After Children and Care Leavers. Cultural services routinely work with colleagues in Children's Services to support Looked After Children and Care Leavers access to cultural provision through the Holiday Activities and Food programme, the In2 programme and programmes involving the Virtual School.

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

5. The Darlington Cultural Strategy 2022-2026 was approved in 2022/23 and is attached at **Appendix 1**. The strategy was informed by research, including the previous Darlington focused Arts Enquiry report, development work since that date and discussion with stakeholders including: Arts Council England, Tees Valley Combined Authority and the Creative Darlington Board.
6. The main drivers for Darlington Cultural Strategy 2022-2026 are to focus our cultural vision and assist advocacy and fundraising to take forward cultural priorities within the timespan of the document.
7. The strategy uses a definition of Culture as set out by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport which covers the following areas:
 - (a) Arts (including visual arts, literature, music, theatre and dance)
 - (b) Architecture
 - (c) Crafts
 - (d) Creative Industries
 - (e) Design
 - (f) Heritage
 - (g) Historic Environment
 - (h) Museums and Galleries
 - (i) Libraries
 - (j) Archives
 - (k) Film
 - (l) Broadcasting and Media
8. The vision of Darlington Cultural Strategy 2022-2026 is that Darlington will be a place in 2026 and beyond where culture enriches lives, involves people and is central to identity and prosperity.
9. The five priorities which Darlington Cultural Strategy seeks to address between 2022 and 2026 are:
 - (a) To creatively celebrate Darlington's contribution to the birth of the modern passenger railway.
 - (b) For Darlington to have an accessible, diverse and vibrant culture, encouraging economic growth.
 - (c) For Darlington to champion engagement with culture, particularly amongst children and young people.
 - (d) For culture to thrive within Darlington Borough and attract visitors to the Town Centre.

- (e) For Darlington to have a thriving theatre offer involving people of all ages.
10. Numerous council services and partners contribute to taking the vision and these priorities forward, including Darlington Hippodrome, the Heritage and Culture Fund (Creative Darlington) budget, the Library Service, the Museums Service, Town Centre Partnership and Events Service alongside additional services for adults (e.g. The Community Arts Project) and children (e.g. The Virtual School's longstanding support for cultural engagement), as do programmes which the Council contributes to and/or manages (e.g. Stockton and Darlington Railway Heritage Action Zone).
 11. The majority of cultural provision delivered or supported by the Council contributes to council priorities of economic and/or social concerns including place promotion, community cohesion, education and well-being, and the Council frequently works in partnership with different enterprises, groups and organisations to take things forward. Darlington Cultural Strategy 2022-2026 clarifies our priorities and is helpful in identifying opportunities for joint working with other agencies.
 12. Within Darlington Cultural Strategy 2022-2026 a commitment was made to present detailed annual Action Plans to Members on an annual basis, and to share annual reports on progress.
 13. Attached at **Appendix 2**, is an update on progress on the 2023/24 Action Plan and the Action Plan for 2024 to 2025.
 14. Considerable progress was made in 2023/24 in addressing particular priorities.
 - (a) The launch of the Stockton and Darlington Railway Heritage Action Zone Community Grants Fund, significant progress in realising the Hopetown Darlington capital programme and progress in developing an ambitious S&DR Bicentenary Festival programme.
 - (b) The reopening of Darlington Library post restoration in September 2023 offering excellent facilities and services to people in Darlington borough and additional Library Service users.
 - (c) A diverse programme of Town Centre events and festivals delivered.
 - (d) In2 Project delivery led by Darlington Hippodrome.
 - (e) The Holiday Activities and Food Programme and our Virtual School supporting cultural opportunities for children and young people in the borough.

Darlington Cultural Strategy 2022-2026



DARLINGTON
Borough Council

Darlington Cultural Strategy

2022-2026

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Where the Cultural Strategy sits

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Section 1

Darlington, People, Place and Culture

1.1 Introduction

Darlington is known for many things including its railway heritage, connectivity, a fantastic theatre offer and as a distinctive and attractive town with a strong market tradition. It is an ingenious and welcoming place where commercial, industrial, scientific and social innovations have been nurtured and supported.

Darlington is located within County Durham for ceremonial purposes and Darlington Borough Council was established as a unitary authority on 1 April 1997 as the administrative authority. Tees Valley Combined Authority was established in 2016 to further the sustainable and inclusive growth of the economy of the Tees Valley and their remit includes Darlington.

Looking to the future, Darlington Borough Council recognises economic growth as its priority in delivering a long-term vision for the borough and the importance of working alongside Tees Valley Combined Authority to support economic growth. Darlington Borough Council aims to provide the opportunity for everyone to access a good job and a good home and is committed to maximising the potential of young people, working with communities and supporting the most vulnerable in the borough, so people can play their part in Darlington's success.

Darlington is bordered by County Durham to the north and west, Stockton-on-Tees to the east and North Yorkshire to the south, along the line of the River Tees. The borough includes a number of villages and settlements. This Cultural Strategy is informed by dialogue with local people and reflects Darlington Borough Council's recognition of the importance of economic growth within the Delivering Success for Darlington Council Plan to 2023.

Darlington's Cultural Strategy takes note of the vision and drivers of national strategies, including Arts Council England's Let's Create strategy to 2030, the North East Cultural Partnership's Case for Culture strategy to 2030 and the priorities of the Tees Valley Combined Authority, as befits an outward looking place. It recognises the importance of the contributions made by people from the private, public and voluntary sectors to Darlington's current cultural offer and their potential to further develop Darlington as a Creative Place.

Within Let's Create, Arts Council England advise they will *'focus a large part of our development role on ensuring that children and young people are able to fulfil their creative potential, and access the highest-quality cultural experiences where they live, where they go to school and where they spend their free time.'*

Darlington's Cultural Strategy to 2026 is informed by our longstanding engagement with agencies including Durham Music Service and Theatre Hullabaloo, who have secured national recognition for their work with children and young people. We plan to continue to work with these partners and to learn from Darlington Hippodrome's In2 programme to ensure that children, young people, their families and the adults in their lives have opportunities to experience Darlington as a creative place.

Our Cultural Strategy for 2022 to 2026 is focused on maximising the social and economic benefits which culture can bring to people across Darlington Borough, including residents, visitors, those working and investing in Darlington. It considers the fantastic opportunities Darlington has via investment through the Towns Fund, through the expected upgrade of Darlington Station, the Rail Heritage Quarter and celebrations in 2025 of the bicentenary of the birth of the modern passenger railway marking the momentous journey of Locomotion No. 1 on the Stockton and Darlington Railway in 1825.

1.2 What is culture and why does it matter?

This strategy uses a definition of Culture as set out by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport which covers the following areas:

- arts (including visual arts, literature, music, theatre and dance)
- architecture
- crafts
- creative industries
- design
- heritage
- historic environment
- museums and galleries
- libraries
- archives
- film
- broadcasting and media

We recognise this definition of Culture does not include Sports and Leisure, which are considered in other strategies covering Darlington and will support ongoing dialogue between both sectors.

Recently published national research shows the value of culture to the UK economy, and that while the arts and culture industry receives public funding it makes a significant contribution to the exchequer through VAT, corporation tax, income tax and national insurance and is highly productive. There are direct economic contributions made by the sector alongside the indirect impact (demand supported through supply-chain purchases) and the induced impact (demand supported through the wider spending of employees).

In 2018, the arts and culture industry supported £64bn of turnover, £29bn of GVA, 461,000 FTE jobs and £16bn of employee compensation in the UK economy.

The Contribution of the arts and culture industry to the UK economy report by the Centre for Economics and Business
Research for Arts Council England, May 2020

Culture plays an important role in making Darlington a vibrant place, it adds life and energy to the borough, helps define Darlington as place and provides opportunities for people to explore their own potential, enjoy themselves, work together and to explore and enrich the world.

Culture should be seen as not only the commissioning of arts and the production of events, but also as a tool; that builds upon the heritage of the area; that builds a shared vision and identity for the area that is steeped in history and has a wealth of cultural assets; that builds the local economy particularly in the context of tourism and creative industries; that improves the local quality of life and encourages engagement in community activities; and that provides new ways of tackling challenges around health and well-being.

Local Government Association: Cultural Strategy in a box

1.3 Current Assets

Culture harnesses, nurtures and shares the talents of the people involved, bringing economic and social benefits to places. The Forum Music Studios is a major cultural asset in Darlington, which attracts visitors alongside highly acclaimed artists and has launched and supported many musical careers through the facilities and services it provides whilst housing activities that bring people together. As a Community Benefit Society, they have contributed to the growth of the UK Music Industry and create a first-class music experience at a grassroots level that inspires people of all ages and demographics to engage with music through participation in a range of social, education, enterprise or entertainment activities. Since they began trading as a social enterprise in 2010, they advise they have introduced over three million pounds into the local economy, over half a million of which has been grant funding from bodies including National Lottery providers and local funding and donations, whilst generating income through the provision of services, activities and reinvesting into the cultural economy of Darlington.

Darlington for Culture currently promote and support culture through advocacy and initiatives including Darlington Cultural Volunteers, their Small Grants programme and network. They came into being in late 2010 and became established as a co-operative in 2011. Members include representatives from arts and community groups from across the borough, and networks and organisations including Darlington for Culture play a significant part in advocating for culture and making things happen.

‘Darlington for Culture has become an important organisation through its ability to provide a network through which the arts can be promoted, supporting Creative Darlington.’

On With the Show, Supporting Local Arts & Culture, Dr Claire Mansfield, New Local Government Network

Going forward to 2025 and beyond we recognise the importance of bringing together voluntary, public and private sector parties, including Darlington for Culture, to make Darlington Borough the best creative place it can be.

Many people, organisations and enterprises animate our cultural offer. Those involved include actors, architects, archivists, artists, broadcasters, crafts people, ceramicists, choreographers, comedians, creatives, curators, dancers, designers, directors, filmmakers, librarians, musicians, performers, poets, photographers, producers, readers, singers, technicians, writers, not forgetting audience members, participants and volunteers, the list goes on. A selection of Darlington's current cultural assets in terms of buildings, resources and events is shown below.

Museums and Galleries

- The Head of Steam railway museum
- Crown Street Art Gallery in Darlington Library

Theatres

- Darlington Hippodrome
- The Hullabaloo
- The Majestic

Cinemas

- Odeon Luxe
- Vue Cinema

Heritage

- Darlington Rail Heritage Quarter
- Darlington Market
- A section of the Stockton & Darlington Railway Heritage Action Zone
- Tees Cottage Pumping Station
- There are 20 archaeological sites within the borough registered as Scheduled Monuments

Libraries

- Darlington Library
- Cockerton Library

Music Venues

- The Forum Music Studios

Parks and Green Spaces

- 16 parks (including South Park)
- 10 nature reserves

Festivals and Events

- (In 2025) the bicentenary of the 1825 passenger journey on the Stockton & Darlington Railway
- Darlington Arts Festival
- Darlington Community Carnival
- Darlington Food Festival
- Darlington Pride
- Darlington R 'n' B Festival
- Last Train Home and Mish Mash music festivals

Visual Arts

- The Bridge Centre for Visual Arts
- Gallerina

1.4 Cultural highlights from 2016 to 2021



Darlington Hippodrome reopened in 2017 post restoration



The Hullabaloo, home of Theatre Hullabaloo, opened 2018



The Stockton & Darlington railway Heritage Action Zone announced in 2018

There have been many highlights in Darlington's cultural offer in recent years including:

- The opening of the Vue cinema in Darlington in 2016
- The Bridge Centre for Visual Arts secured charitable status, focusing on the connections between art and health (particularly mental health)
- The restoration and reopening of Darlington Hippodrome in 2017
- The opening of The Hullabaloo, home of Theatre Hullabaloo, in 2018
- Stockton & Darlington Railway declared a Heritage Action Zone in 2018
- The Enjoy Darlington campaign launched, and a cohesive Town Centre events programme promoted
- Commercial concerts promoted successfully at The Darlington Arena
- Refurbishment of the Odeon Luxe cinema in Darlington
- Darlington Borough Council allocating capital to refurbish Darlington Library

- Darlington securing Purple Flag status in 2020 and the Town's nightlife deemed one of the safest in the North-East
- Tees Valley Combined Authority allocating budget to create a Rail Heritage Quarter in Darlington which is expected to become a significant visitor attraction in Tees Valley by 2025
- Darlington securing £22.3 million in 2020 through the Town's Fund to support regeneration schemes in Darlington including the acquisition of key properties on Northgate, to protect heritage assets within the Rail Heritage Quarter, including supporting the creation of a 26-mile walking and cycling route along the track-bed of the original Stockton and Darlington Railway
- The re-opening of Cockerton Library following a refurbishment programme and Darlington Library refurbishment underway in 2021/22
- Support secured for sector recovery and adaptation during the Covid 19 pandemic



Darlington secured Purple Flag status in 2020



Cockerton Library reopened in 2021



Restoration of Darlington Library underway in 2022

1.5 Impact of the pandemic

The Covid-19 pandemic has inevitably impacted on Darlington's culture and the lives of those providing services or employed in the cultural sector. The pandemic necessitated temporary closure of cultural venues and facilities and either cancellation or postponement of cultural programme. Government announced the largest ever one-off investment in UK Culture of £1.57 billion. Several Darlington residents secured support through Arts Council England's Emergency Funds and The Forum Music Centre and Darlington Hippodrome secured support from Arts Council England's Culture Recovery Programme.

North East Culture Partnership commissioned research to assess the regional impact of the pandemic on the sector, which has helped to identify prevailing issues. Tees Valley Mayor, Ben Houchen announced the establishment of a new, independent and sector-led Task Force to advise on the development and delivery of a £1million Recovery Programme for the Visitor Economy and Cultural Industries sectors through Tees Valley Combined Authority in June 2020, and a number of programmes have been delivered and are in development. Darlington Borough Council led programmes to support resilience and recovery during the pandemic. It is expected that national, regional, sub regional and local bodies will continue to monitor recovery and that further research will inform measures taken to encourage recovery.

Section 2

Vision, priorities, opportunities and how this strategy will impact on Darlington's culture

The Cultural Strategy for 2022 – 2026 will look to build on momentum gained in the last decade and will be reviewed regularly. The vision and priorities for investment within the 2022 – 2026 timeframe are shown below.

2.1 Vision:

Darlington will be a place in 2026 and beyond where culture enriches lives, involves people and is central to identity and prosperity.

2.2 Priorities

- 1 To creatively celebrate Darlington's contribution to the birth of the modern passenger railway.
- 2 For Darlington to have an accessible, diverse and vibrant culture, encouraging economic growth.
- 3 For Darlington to champion engagement with culture, particularly amongst children and young people.
- 4 For culture to thrive within Darlington Borough and attract visitors to the Town Centre.
- 5 For Darlington to have a thriving theatre offer involving people of all ages.

2.3 Opportunities to 2026

In recent years, Darlington has worked with Tees Valley Combined Authority and other parties to secure investment to create a Rail Heritage Quarter around the current site of the Head of Steam railway museum,



Darlington Rail Heritage Quarter and 2025 programme fast approaching

adjoining North Road Station, which is expected to open in advance of 2025 and to become a significant and distinctive visitor attraction in Tees Valley. The Rail Heritage Quarter will be one of the North East's tourism assets and a catalyst for regeneration in the Northgate area.

Work is also underway to preserve and promote public engagement with rail heritage within the Stockton & Darlington Railway Heritage Action Zone. The original track-bed of the railway runs 26 miles from County Durham, through Darlington, to Stockton and several programmes of work are moving forward to safeguard this heritage and build public engagement.

Darlington was involved in a significant programme of events in 1925 to mark the centenary of this historic journey, which is the birth of the modern passenger railway, and again in the Stockton & Darlington Railway Pageant 1975. Given the importance of railway heritage to Darlington, and the worldwide significance of railways, we aim for the 2025 bicentenary to celebrate and safeguard our heritage and to leave a legacy for people in the borough and the wider area working with partners. The bi-centenary events programme is expected to be of significant scale and to attract visitors to Darlington, Tees Valley. and County Durham. Subject to budget the programme may include live steam and motive power, the exhibition of early steam locomotives, education projects, knowledge sharing activity, community events and large scale outdoor cultural events.

Darlington secured a significant Town's Fund Award in 2020 which is supporting significant regeneration activity within Darlington and will help develop the Rail Heritage Quarter as a visitor attraction and to protect key heritage assets. It is expected Darlington Borough Council will seek support from other government programmes for regeneration and that culture can be a component of these programmes subject to successful application, through protecting heritage and improvements to the public realm.

Culture is making a strong contribution to our Town Centre offer, and the Enjoy Darlington and Enjoy Tees Valley campaigns, and regular festivals and events play a part in attracting people to visit Darlington and add value to their visits, whether residents, tourists or people working here. Culture is contributing to encouraging extended visits and to the vibrancy of the daytime and evening economy, and we will continue to explore opportunities to share local, Tees Valley, regional and national events with people in Darlington.

Darlington Borough Council expects to work closely with Tees Valley Combined Authority in addressing shared cultural

priorities up to 2026 and beyond, and recognises the importance of culture as a high growth sector of the economy, in encouraging sustainable growth, encouraging investment, supporting place promotion, and contributing efficiently to agendas including education, health and quality of life. Tees Valley Combined Authority area was identified by Arts Council England in 2021 amongst 54 priority places for their focus during the first period of their Let's Create strategy 2020 - 2030.



Enjoy Darlington – Town Centre

Darlington is the home of pioneering theatre company, Theatre Hullabaloo, who have recently delivered successful programmes engaging parents, babies and young children to support positive health outcomes. Darlington Borough Council has commissioned collaborative programmes including In2 led by Darlington Hippodrome and work involving Blue Cabin and our Virtual School, which help to maximise the potential of young people. We will explore opportunities to extend programmes of this nature working with Tees Valley Combined Authority and other partners in the health and education sectors.

Darlington Hippodrome has developed significant programmes to engage residents in Darlington's theatre heritage and we intend to maintain this work and to build on successful initiatives to make Darlington Hippodrome a place for everyone. Alongside celebrating the heritage of theatre in Darlington we intend to develop the reach of other assets including Darlington Library by exploring their heritage with people in Darlington.

Tees Valley has established a well-earned reputation for innovative practice in film, animation and creative digital practice. The Northern School of Art, Teesside University and Northern Film + Media through Tees Valley Screen are working alongside various partners, with Tees Valley Combined Authority support, to promote Tees Valley as a fantastic location for film and television productions. Successful film and television productions have provided significant economic returns for the locations in which they are housed, including employment and place promotion. Darlington has distinctive locations for film and television productions to utilise, given our railway, engineering and agricultural heritage and as a market town. Popular television series 'Vera' and films, including 'Atonement' and '1917', have utilised locations in Tees Valley successfully. We applaud the work undertaken in recent years in developing production facilities within Tees Valley, working with the sector to support progression routes and retain talent, and to attract film and television productions here.

2.4 How the strategy will impact on Darlington's culture

We will use this strategy to inform:

- Where Darlington Borough Council focuses resources
- Our engagement with people living in Darlington Borough around culture
- Darlington Borough Council's engagement with Arts Council England, National Heritage Lottery Fund, North East Cultural Partnership and Tees Valley Combined Authority and other bodies
- Our fundraising strategy

This Cultural Strategy has been informed by dialogue with people resident in, working in, visiting and invested in the borough, and by strategic priorities in Darlington, Tees Valley, the North East of England and Nationally, given Darlington's connectivity and outward looking instinct.

Section 3

Where the Cultural Strategy sits and how it is actioned

3.1 Where the Cultural Strategy sits

The Cultural Strategy is informed by Darlington's Borough Council's Delivering success for Darlington Council Plan to 2023, by Tees Valley Combined Authority's work on culture and tourism, by the North East Cultural Partnership's Case for Culture and by Arts Council England's Let's Create strategy to 2030.

Darlington Borough Council's Council Plan 2020 – 2023 Delivering success for Darlington vision sees:

Darlington is a place where people want to live and businesses want to locate, where the economy continues to grow, where people are happy and proud of the borough and where everyone has the opportunity to maximise their potential.

It is focused on growing Darlington's Economy by delivering more sustainable well-paid jobs, more businesses and more homes and commits Darlington Borough Council to supporting economic growth by keeping the borough clean, safe, healthy, sustainable, well-planned and on the move, whilst valuing our heritage and culture.

The Council's overarching focus on growing Darlington's Economy feeds into commitments to:

- Maximise the potential of our young people by working with partners to maximise educational achievement, working to remove barriers to young people reaching their potential, working at a Tees Valley level to match jobs with skills and training.
- Work with communities to maximise their potential by maximising the benefits of a growing economy for all communities, targeting services where they are most needed, working with partners and working with communities.
- Support the most vulnerable in the borough by providing care and support when needed, working with people to build on their strengths to maximise their potential, working with partners.

Darlington's Cultural Strategy 2022 – 2026 is informed by and aligned to the vision and commitments above.

Tees Valley Combined Authority are leading significant work around Culture and Tourism and Darlington Borough Council and organisations and enterprises working in Darlington, regularly engage with Tees Valley Combined Authority around Culture and Tourism. Through its Culture and Tourism programme, the Combined Authority is currently taking the Stockton and Darlington Railway Heritage Programme forward and has allocated significant budget to support development of a Rail Heritage Quarter in Darlington. Tees Valley Combined Authority is included amongst 54 Priority Places that Arts Council England will prioritise working with between 2021 and 2024. Darlington Borough Council engages with Tees Valley Combined Authority around culture through a variety of mechanisms, including Creative Darlington board meetings.

North East Culture Partnership's The North East Case for Culture 2015-2030 vision is *'...a positive statement of ambition for the next 15 years, building on the strengths of our diverse communities and pointing to the opportunities for further investment in arts and heritage right across the North East'.*

North East Culture Partnership's five aspirations address Participation, Children and Young People, Talent and Progression, Economic Value and Quality of Life. The partnership is backed by the region's arts and heritage sector, the business and private sector, North East universities, the further education sector and the twelve local authorities in the region including Darlington Borough Council. They have reached out beyond the cultural sector to universities, business networks, the health and well-being sector, and organisations working with children and young people.

Arts Council England's Let's Create strategy 2020 – 2030 will inform their work with the arts, libraries and museums and contains their vision that *'by 2030, we want England to be a country in which the creativity of each of us is valued and given the chance to flourish, and where every one of us has access to a remarkable range of high-quality cultural experiences'.* The strategy seeks three outcomes, Creative People, Cultural Communities and A Creative and Cultural Economy and recognises the importance of involving people in shaping culture, the value of culture to communities and the economic value of the sector and the importance of leadership and diversity. Arts Council England have shared four investment principles for the first period of the Let's Create strategy, these being Ambition and Quality, Dynamism, Environmental Responsibility and Inclusivity and Relevance.

Arts Council England have a National Portfolio of Organisations they support through regular funding, co-ordinate support for Music Hubs, lead strategic programmes and manage Project Funding (Lottery). Within Darlington as of May 2021 Theatre Hullabaloo are the sole Darlington based National Portfolio Organisation, although Darlington Borough is within the remit served by Tees Valley Museums who are a National Portfolio Organisation. Darlington Borough is also served by Durham Music Hub, who receive support through Arts Council England.

3.2 Equality

Darlington Borough Council aims to promote equality in everything it does. This means treating people fairly, valuing diversity and removing barriers that prevent people being able to fully participate in public life and fulfil their potential. Much of the local authority's work, together with its partners, is focused on narrowing the gaps in health, attainment, prosperity and quality of life between more vulnerable and disadvantaged people and the Darlington community as a whole. Darlington's Cultural Strategy 2022 – 2026 embodies the local authority commitment to equality in various measures, including supporting diverse public events, festivals and programmes and continued support for bespoke activity and the promotion of opportunities for people with protected characteristics.

Darlington Borough Council supports a rich array of cultural activity involving people with different protected characteristics and consults with appropriate partners to ensure that equality underpins our cultural planning and service provision. Programmes including the Darlington Hippodrome led In2 are engaging children in diverse areas of Darlington including Northgate, while free Town Centre festivals like the Mish Mash music festival and Darlington Pride Weekender, celebrate the rich diversity within Darlington. Between 2022 and 2026 this commitment to equality will continue to inform the various cultural services and programmes we provide. Our Cultural Strategy seeks to provide opportunities for everyone including minority groups ensuring all residents can experience Darlington's rich and vibrant cultural programmes. Darlington's cultural offer is distinctive and ever evolving and we welcome and appreciate people from all ethnicities and nationalities contribution to this.

We will support diversity within Darlington Borough Council's cultural programmes and build or maintain productive relationships with individuals, enterprises, organisations and services who develop provision for people in Darlington. For example, as a Corporate Parent we expect to continue to engage with registered charities, like Blue Cabin, who nurture meaningful relationships between children and young people with experience of the care system, and the adults and organisations who play a significant part in their lives. We will work with community based creative organisations and enterprises who value equality, and will promote funding opportunities like Darlington for Culture's small grants programme widely, which has supported Chinese and Polish cultural events engaging people in Darlington in recent years.

3.3 Sustainability

Darlington Borough Council is also committed to promoting a sustainable approach, which means balancing different, and often competing, needs against an awareness of the economic, social and environmental limitations that we face as a society. In July 2019, Members acknowledged the threat of climate change and passed a motion committing Darlington Borough Council to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2050. Plans to develop or refurbish cultural assets within Darlington by 2026 are informed by our commitment to sustainability. For example, the refurbishment programme at Darlington Library will incorporate improvements to the energy efficiency of heating and lighting the building, and plans for Darlington's Rail Heritage Quarter pay due consideration to those travelling on foot, bicycle, via public transport and automobile.

3.4 How we will act on the Cultural Strategy and where we aim to be in 2026

Darlington Borough Council will implement the Cultural Strategy working with partners including Tees Valley Combined Authority, North East Culture Partnership, organisations including Arts Council England, National Heritage Lottery Fund, and sharing information on progress through the Creative Darlington Board and Darlington Partnership as appropriate.

Detailed annual action plans will be presented to Darlington Borough Council on an annual basis. Annual reports on progress will be made to the Creative Darlington Board, which includes board members from Darlington for Culture, Darlington Partnership and Arts Council England. Darlington Borough Council will consider climate change and other environmental concerns when taking forward these action plans.

Subject to our success in taking forward the Cultural Strategy by 2026 and beyond Darlington will be where culture enriches lives, involves people and plays a central role in the identity and prosperity of the borough.

We will have creatively celebrated the birth of the modern railways in 1825 and the bicentenary celebrations in 2025, investment in our Rail Heritage Quarter and the Stockton & Darlington Railway Heritage Action will have left a positive legacy for the borough, Tees Valley and the North East region. Darlington will have a distinctive, accessible and vibrant culture, encouraging economic growth. Culture will be a significant component of our vibrant Town Centre offer, enriching the lives of those living, working or visiting the borough, contributing to place promotion and encouraging investment here. Darlington's theatres and cultural assets will be vibrant, thriving and known for their innovative work and Darlington will be known for its creative people, creative communities and making a positive contribution to England as a creative and cultural country. Equality and environmental sustainability will underpin our cultural offer. We encourage all people interested in culture in Darlington to get involved with this strategy and welcome your comments.

Darlington Culture Strategy Action Plan 2023/24 delivery and Action Plan for 2024/25

1.1 Introduction

Our Cultural Strategy for 2022 to 2026 (**Appendix 1**) is focused on maximising the social and economic benefits which culture can bring to people across Darlington Borough, including residents, visitors, those working and investing in Darlington. It considers the fantastic opportunities Darlington has, including the bicentenary of the birth of the modern passenger railway marking the momentous journey of Locomotion No. 1 on the Stockton and Darlington Railway in 1825. It uses a definition of Culture as set out by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport covering:

- arts (including visual arts, literature, music, theatre and dance)
- architecture
- crafts
- creative industries
- design
- heritage
- historic environment
- museums and galleries
- libraries
- archives
- film
- broadcasting and media

1.2 Vision, priorities, opportunities and how this strategy will impact on Darlington's culture

The vision and priorities for investment within the 2022-2026 timeframe are shown below.

Vision:

Darlington will be a place in 2026 and beyond where culture enriches lives, involves people and is central to identity and prosperity.

Priorities

1. To creatively celebrate Darlington's contribution to the birth of the modern passenger railway.
2. For Darlington to have an accessible, diverse and vibrant culture, encouraging economic growth.
3. For Darlington to champion engagement with culture, particularly amongst children and young people.
4. For culture to thrive within Darlington Borough and attract visitors to the Town Centre.
5. For Darlington to have a thriving theatre offer involving people of all ages.

1.3 Delivery of Darlington Cultural Strategy

Darlington Borough Council is working with partners to progress our vision and address these priorities. Annual action plans are presented to Darlington Borough Council and annual reports on progress will be made to both Darlington Borough Council and to the Creative Darlington Board, which includes representation from Arts Council England, Darlington for Culture, Darlington Partnership and Tees Valley Combined Authority. The 2022-2023 Action Plan alongside a report on Darlington Cultural Strategy 2022-2026 went to Communities and Local Services Scrutiny Committee on 17 February 2022, before its publication. The strategy has since been signed off and utilised to inform our work and advocacy, including in fundraising where appropriate, to address the vision above.

The table following point 1.4 in this report summarises delivery against the 2023/24 Action Plan and the table following point 1.5 presents the proposed Action Plan for 2024/25 for consideration by Darlington Borough Council. This paper asks the Communities and Local Services Scrutiny Committee to comment on and/or endorse the proposed Action Plan for 2024/25.

1.4: Darlington Culture Strategy Annual Action Plan delivery 2023/24

The five priorities of Darlington Cultural Strategy 2022-2026 are listed below. We recognise these priorities overlap to some degree, and that particular actions address more than one priority.

- 1. To creatively celebrate Darlington’s contribution to the birth of the modern passenger railway.
- 2. For Darlington to have an accessible, diverse and vibrant culture, encouraging economic growth.
- 3. For Darlington to champion engagement with culture, particularly amongst children and young people.
- 4. For culture to thrive within Darlington Borough and attract visitors to the Town Centre.
- 5. For Darlington to have a thriving theatre offer involving people of all ages.

Delivery of Darlington Cultural Strategy Action Plan 2023/24					
Priority	What	Lead	Partners	Action	Measure(s) of success
1	Assist the 2025 bi-centenary festival director in their development of a proposal seeking significant Arts Council England support by providing information on Darlington borough where requested and available	Darlington Borough Council	Durham County Council, Stockton Borough Council, Tees Valley Combined Authority, Rail Heritage Board, National Railway Museum, Friends of S&DR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the fundraising of the 2025 festival director 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fundraising application submitted
<p>Delivery in 2023/24:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Darlington Borough Council worked with the S&DR Bicentenary Festival Director in December 2023 and January 2024 to submit an Expression of Interest for Major Projects funding of £750,000 from Arts Council England to support aspects of the S&DR Bicentenary Festival programme which will take place in locations in Darlington borough, County Durham and Stockton-on-Tees borough. The Expression of Interest was successful with full submission of a Major Projects application to Arts Council England to be made by 27 March 2024 by the S&DR Bicentenary Festival Director. The S&DR Bicentenary Festival Director and the marketing and communications has met with Darlington Borough Council service and programme managers (Creative Darlington, Darlington Hippodrome, Museums Service, Stockton & Darlington railway Heritage Action Zone, Town Centre Partnership and programme managers) to agree fundraising responsibilities for the Bicentenary Festival with various proposals to be submitted in 2024/25. 					

APPENDIX 2

1	Progress the commissioning of rail heritage themed public art within Hopetown Darlington (formerly Darlington Rail Heritage Quarter) and creatively celebrate Darlington's engagement with railways	PLB Ltd for Darlington Borough Council	Creative Darlington, Tees Valley Combined Authority, The Art Fund, Rail Heritage Board, National Railway Museum, Friends of S&DR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commission Andrew McKeown to deliver a suite of work informed by the Hopetown Darlington Public Art Strategy Support the development of creative proposals to explore Darlington's rail heritage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rail heritage themed Public Art commissioned by PLB for the Hopetown Darlington site in 2023/24 Proposals developed, funding secured, programme outputs (if programmes commence in 2023/24)
Delivery in 2023/24: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported by a funding offer from The Art Fund and Darlington Borough Council, public artist Andrew McKeown has been commissioned by PLB Ltd to create railway themed artwork for Hopetown Darlington. Andrew worked with local schools and members of the Railway Coffee Morning to inform the text utilised within the proposed commissions for the site, including sculptural ticket nippers, turntable and 'Evoke' which utilises evocative words on the staircase leading to the site. In 2023/24 Darlington Borough Council alongside a local business supported the composition of a score by West End composer Stuart Brayson, ('From Here To Eternity') for a children's musical 'Darly's Magical Ride' to celebrate the bicentennial of the railways in 2025, which subject to budget, will engage children and young people, including music students from Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College, and Darlington Operatic Society in a programme concluding with a performance at Darlington Hippodrome in 2025/26. 					
2	Darlington to participate in Tees Valley wide programme to boost screen industries	Tees Valley Combined Authority	Darlington Borough Council, Northern Film + Media, Tees Valley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with partners to promote opportunities for 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Darlington participants involved in sector

APPENDIX 2

			Screen, Northern School of Art, Teesside University	talent development and locations for filming in Darlington borough	development programmes, filming enquiries answered, and, subject to enquiries, filming undertaken in Darlington Borough
Delivery in 2023/24: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chief Executives and Leaders of all TVCA councils, including Darlington Borough Council, have signed up to the North East Filming Friendly Charter. A briefing event led by North East Screen was held in the Dolphin Centre (February 2024), providing more information on how services (Highways/Road Management/ Events/ Parking/ Tourism/ Marketing/ Property Management, etc) can play a part in making Local Authorities Film Friendly and offering insight into the film process and location management. Darlington has been used as a location for the filming of acclaimed TV series 'Vera' previously, and distinctive assets including Hopetown Darlington and Darlington Hippodrome may provide opportunities for further filming in the borough. Darlington hosted the Women X Film Festival (September 2023) programmed by Rianne Pictures which showcased 67 films created by female filmmakers, secured British Independent Film Awards support, and welcomed 270 plus guests to Darlington Hippodrome, ranging from 8 months old to 80 years old. Darlington Borough Council addressed a number of enquiries from the film and TV sector in 2023/24 regarding permissions required to film in particular locations. Heritage & Culture fund budget was committed to support the development of two new film's focused on different aspects of the borough's culture and heritage (Guru's 50 years of business in Darlington, Arthur Wharton's legacy), which are expected to be screened at The Forum Music Studios in 2024/25 and 2025/26. 					
3	An excellent cultural offer is accessible to children and young people across Darlington Borough	Darlington Borough Council	Sector individuals, organisations and enterprises, Creative Darlington, Darlington Academies and Schools, Darlington	Darlington Borough Council will provide a Children's Library Service, an Events Service, and a Museum's Service providing opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Service delivery and outputs

			and Durham Music Hub, Further Education providers in Darlington, Northern School of Art, Teesside University, Tees Valley Combined Authority, Tees Valley Museums	for children and young people to engage with their culture and support Darlington Hippodrome’s work with children and young people	
<p>Delivery in 2023/24:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To support families who are economically disadvantaged Darlington Library is one of five pilot authorities that trialled gifting free World Book Day (7 March 2024) books to children. Vouchers are usually exchanged at bookstores which may add pressure to families to “buy” and be a barrier to accessing their free book. In January 2024, Darlington Library Service welcomed a record number of 29,534 visitors through the doors of Darlington Library, the highest on their record (dating from 2017). Customers are still coming in to view the spaces and take a look around.• Darlington Town Partnership and Events service successfully delivered, programmed and supported an extensive programme of events in 2023/24. The calendar included Darlington Community Carnival (June 2023) with a parade from the town centre to Stanhope Park involving local groups and charities. Darlington by the Sea (July 2023) brought a beach to Darlington’s Market Square, enabling free sandcastle building and offering crafts activities.• To welcome families into the town centre, a variety of animation events were facilitated, Fairytales & Legends Day (24 August), Dinosaur Day (31 August) with a trail saw over 170 families walk nearly 2km to explore the town centre looking for clues. Further events like this included Halloween, Christmas Character Day and Ice Sculpture Trails. The option for people to explore means longer dwell time, restaurant and café visits and people exploring new parts of the town centre to see the retail and hospitality offering.• A new event (30 August) to attract neurodiverse families took place, with interactive and sensory activities programmed alongside information teams and charities who were available to offer support and advice.					

- To celebrate world festivals, the team programmed a Diwali Festival of Lights event (11 November) involving five Darlington schools working with an artist commissioned to make lanterns, culminating in a lantern parade. For Chinese New Year, the Chinese community were involved with creating a range of activities, including costume, dance and craft to celebrate the year of the dragon. The response from the public has been excellent and we look forward to developing these events further for 2024/25.
- The Museum Service has continued to deliver their cultural offer despite being closed to the public while the site undergoes redevelopment. The 'Museum on the Move' outreach project has engaged with over 10,000 people including over 3,000 school children and thousands of families through their engaging event and activity programme. The 'Museum on the Move' van attended events and community settings around the town to promote the work the museum does, with 1,300 people engaging with this service. 'Museum on the Move' engaged with 542 children and over 100 parents and visitors with the Traveller Living Wagon, which visited St Teresa's Catholic Primary from 26 to 28 September 2023, carried out in collaboration with the Council's Traveller Education and Achievement Team, schools, a storyteller and Salford City Council Ethnic Minority and Traveller Achievement Team, who built the wagon. Workshops were delivered to visiting schools to share Traveller heritage with children, to promote understanding between Travellers and non-Travellers in Darlington.
- During October 2023, Darlington Hippodrome hosted a 'Curious Takeover' event in partnership with Curious Arts, offering creative activities for all the family, with costs supported by the theatre's Place for Everyone Fund and Arts Council England. Darlington Hippodrome's pantomime, 'Snow White and The Seven Dwarfs', opened early December 2023 to a full house and ran until the end of the month, receiving excellent reviews and was financially more successful than the previous year's pantomime.
- Darlington Borough Council supported a range of activity led by other parties which engaged children and young people in Darlington in 2023/24, including Blue Cabin CIC, Cabinet of Curiosity Studios, Durham Music Service, Orchestras Live and others through its Heritage & Culture fund budget. Several of these parties secured additional external funding to support this work, e.g. £30,000 Project Funding from Arts Council England has been offered to Debbie Harbin for The D Project Organisational Development programme which expected to engage c 500 participants in Darlington and is supported by match from DBC Heritage & Culture fund budget in 2023/24 and 2024/25. Working with other parties in this way helps attract additional funding to support this priority.

3 & 5	Support Theatre Hullabaloo's pioneering work, putting young people at the heart of the creative process, with those aged 0 – 16 years in Darlington	Theatre Hullabaloo	Theatre Hullabaloo, Creative Darlington, Darlington Borough Council	Darlington Borough Council will allocate Arts and Heritage budget to Theatre Hullabaloo's Hullabaloo in the Park 2023 programme	Theatre Hullabaloo delivery of Hullabaloo in the Park programme in South Park in 2023, festival outputs
Delivery in 2023/24: Action: Through its Heritage & Culture Fund (Creative Darlington) budget, Darlington Borough Council offered support to Theatre Hullabaloo's delivery of the Hullabaloo in the Park 2023 festival. More significant budget support was also offered from parties, including Tees Valley Combined Authority and in-kind support from Darlington Borough Council Town Centre Partnership and Events service, Parks Allotments and Countryside service and other services. A programme of 170 plus events over five days was delivered. Theatre Hullabaloo advise this year's festival:					

- attracted 13,000 visitors – nearly double the target
- 71% of attendees were from Darlington, others came from across the North East region with contingents from Yorkshire and Northumberland
- 46% of those who came along had not engaged with Theatre Hullabaloo or Darlington Hippodrome before – of those 90% said they would in future
- 98% of attendees rated the festival and South Park “very good” for access and inclusion
- 96% said the festival was brilliant for families, and would come again next year
- 94 people were given employment as event staff, artists, crew, security or via vendors
- there was a £240k+ direct economic impact from the festival, and a 45.2% spend to GVA ratio – these figures will grow as Theatre Hullabaloo gather more data

3	Darlington Borough Council will support children and young people’s cultural engagement through intervention programmes	Darlington Borough Council	Darlington Borough Council, particular Darlington Academies and Schools, Durham University, cultural sector	Darlington Hippodrome will continue to deliver the In2 programme, and to provide cultural opportunities for children and young people supported by the Holiday Activities Fund	In2 programme and Holiday Activities Fund backed cultural programme outputs
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Delivery in 2023/24:

- In2 April-July 2023 - Visual Arts Term: During the Summer term, the participants of the In2 project worked with visual artists and a writer on a project called In Flight, which represented their journey from primary to secondary school. Across 6 weeks children experimented with different art forms and crafts, including printing, weaving, and sculpting, and they also wrote and recorded a poem. Each element was used to create a giant bamboo bird sculpture which represented their school's ethos (an owl, a hummingbird, and a dove) with an accompanying poetry soundscape. These were exhibited at the Hullabaloo in the Park festival 2023 and at the Wintertide Festival in Hartlepool before being returned to the schools. Total Participants: 141 (59 Northwood

Primary + 44 Firthmoor Primary + 38 Corporation Road Primary).

- 1,090 children attended Darlington Borough Council's Holiday Activities and Food summer programme which included cultural activity (eligible for children 5 – 16 who receive benefits-related to Free School Meals). Additional Holiday Activities and Food programme engagement is expected during the Easter 2024 holiday period.
- In2 September-December 2023 - Theatre and Performance Term: The new cohort of In2 participants worked with Zest Theatre, on the *Refresh Darlington* project, which aims to create space for children to reflect on their experience of the last few years and release their voices. Workshops were facilitated by a team of Zest's Creatives and young people from Future Proof who live in Tees Valley. Pupils had the opportunity to turn their words in a performance piece, working with filmmaker, Andy Berriman. Each school made a short film called The Children's Manifesto: My Voice Matters. Films and artworks were shared with their local councillors at a special event, with two of the wards running the films and artwork on their constituency websites and social media. The group rounded off 2023 with an eco-cracker making workshop, a Christmas-themed dance workshop, and a trip to the pantomime. Total Participants: 156 (60 Northwood Primary + 48 Firthmoor Primary + 48 Corporation Road Primary).
- In2 January-April 2024 - Music Term: At the start of 2024 the children visited Stockton ARC to see the premiere of Camp Phoenix, a play produced by Zest Theatre based on the words of the many young people who have been involved in the Refresh project. They are currently working with Back Chat Brass, learning how to play plastic trumpets and trombones, building towards an in school performance and with songwriter and music producer, Callum Howard, to write three new songs about moving from primary to secondary school. This involves creating beats and melodies, writing the lyrics, recording the final songs, and performing in a pop video. They will also record the brass parts for the songs. There are also two Holiday Activities and Food workshops in the February 2024 half-term and Easter holidays working with the music practitioners. Total Participants: 156 (60 Northwood Primary + 48 Firthmoor Primary + 48 Corporation Road Primary).
- Blue Cabin CiO delivered 39 weekly sessions of This is the Place early years music activity in Darlington with support from Youth Music, County Durham Community Foundation and Darlington Borough Council, enabling children and babies under 5 in care in Darlington to receive a free music making bag with the vast majority of the contents sourced locally. 75 bags were delivered to babies with a total of 99 project participants in Darlington. Blue Cabin CiO secured a £150,000 Youth Music Catalyzer Grant offer from Youth Music in 2023/24. This will enable a three-year extension of This is the Place early years music project with CEC

cohort in Darlington borough and Redcar and Cleveland boroughs. The extended programme will take place from 2024/25 to 2026/27 with Heritage & Culture fund (Creative Darlington) budget + DBC Virtual School budget offered in each of these years.

4	Support cultural engagement through events, exhibitions and programmes utilising improved facilities befitting Darlington Library as a key cultural asset within the borough post restoration and reopening	Darlington Borough Council	Creative sector	Programme cultural events, exhibitions and activity in Darlington Library	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme outputs and funding secured
<p>Delivery in 2023/24:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Darlington Borough Council reopened Darlington Library post restoration on 9 September 2023, including the Children's Library which is themed around an enchanted woodland, creating a magical and inviting atmosphere that captures the imagination of children and adults alike. More than 5,000 people visited the updated Library in the first week. With a combination of modern-classic aesthetics and flexible furniture, the Children's Library space is versatile and adaptable, and has hosted various animation, activities and events, catering to different age groups and interests, e.g. BIG Little Gigs promoted by Tracks Darlington as part of the Arts Council England Your Library Story Project Funded programme supported by DBC Heritage & Culture fund budget. • Arts Council England funded a brand-new digital innovation centre called The Hive at Darlington Library. Darlington Library Service has engaged schools, many of whom are now buying in to one of their new library packages designed to improve opportunities for school pupils to engage in STEM, art and literature activities. School pupils are enjoying designing and making items on the 3d 					

printers, laser cutters and Cricut machines, and learning on the VR headsets at The Hive.

- Darlington Schools have taken part in the Northern Childrens Book Festival where they had workshops with a range of different authors, and many visited to borrow books.
- BookFest returned to Darlington Library in March 2024 and took place during the week of World Book Day incorporating a weeklong extravaganza of events including a tea party with Alice and The Mad Hatter, Creative Writing with Madam Dragon, and family friendly music gigs. All activity was free and aimed to engage families in creative, cultural and literary activity. Schools in Darlington received free author experiences and creative writing workshops as part of BookFest, including those with a significantly higher proportion of children accessing free school meals.
- Darlington Borough Council secured a £38,502 Arts Council England Project Funding offer in support of Darlington Library creative programme, matched with £12,373 DBC Heritage & Culture Fund budget in 2023/24 + £6,000 in 2024/25, which has supported drop-in Darlo Draws activity led by Lizzie Lovejoy, drop-in animation activity led by Sheryl Jenkins and BIG Little Gigs and Hark! The Sound of Stories events programmed by Tracks Darlington at Darlington Library.
- Four exhibitions have been held in the Art Gallery at Darlington Library since reopening post restoration: Splendour of Steam (September - November 2023) by Stephen Bainbridge, All that's not shared will be lost, Leanne Jackson (November - December 2023), Circling, Laura Wilson (December 2023 – January 2024), and Place, People & Living Memory, a group exhibition curated by Phil Gatenby (February – March 2024). Phil Gatenby was awarded £29,400 Project Funding from Arts Council England for this. Darlington, Elizabeth Pease & Radical Non-Resistance: A Touring Exhibition for display at Durham University and Darlington Library in 2023/24. The exhibition considers aspects of Darlington's Quaker heritage and attracted 1,014 visits from 2 February – 29 February 2024.

4	Support economic growth through the Enjoy Darlington campaign, including accessible, diverse and vibrant cultural events, festivals and programmes which enhance Town Centre animation	Darlington Borough Council	Darlington Borough Council, Darlington Borough Town Centre Partnership, Darlington Partnership, Tees Valley Combined Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote and manage a year-round Town Centre events programme Mark the King's Coronation with a celebratory programme attracting Town Centre visitors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town Centre footfall, estimated attendance at cultural events, media coverage secured
<p>Delivery in 2023/24:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Darlington promoted an extensive programme of events throughout 2023/24 attracting visitors of all ages to Darlington Town Centre. In addition to Eurovision and Coronation programmes, plus children and young people focused events reported earlier, work supporting business sustainability and development has been incorporated. Entering Northumbria in Bloom and National Britain in Bloom visits to Darlington in 2023 led to the town winning the prestigious Britain in Bloom and gaining a national GOLD award. There was a record number of racers for the Darlington 10K Run (6 August) with over 1900 entries in 2023. Darlington has again been awarded the Purple Flag Award which recognises Darlington's provision of a safe, vibrant and varied night out. The Town Centre Partnership & Events Service supported and promoted a popular programme of events including culture throughout the year - highlights included a live screening of Eurovision for the BBC and TVCA (13 May), the Pride Weekender (12 to 14 August), the R'N'B Weekender (8 to 10 September). 					

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Darlington celebrated the Coronation of Kings Charles III from 6 May - 7 May 2023 with a dedicated programme of activity delighting visitors, including a live stream of the ceremony on a big screen and a special Coronation Concert. 					
5	Audience development, youth theatre programmes and sector development programmes are led by, promoted by, or held at Darlington Hippodrome	Darlington Hippodrome	Darlington Hippodrome, Cultural Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth Theatre programme promoted Youth Dance programme promoted Audience development programme supported 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programme outputs
<p>Delivery in 2023/24:</p> <p>Action: Youth Theatre programme promoted</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An extensive youth theatre provision covering different age groups engaged children and young people was offered at Darlington Hippodrome in 2023/24. <p>Action: Youth Dance programme promoted</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Darlington Hippodrome promoted its successful Youth Dance programme in 2023/24 and hosted a variety of dance activity for children and young people including Darlington School Games Dance Festival. SLIDE is TIN Arts' annual young people's dance platform and in 2023/24 they partnered with The D Project to bring together young dancers from across Durham and Darlington to present and evening of exciting and engaging contemporary dance at Darlington Hippodrome on 9th March 2024. 					

Action: Audience development programme supported

- Darlington Hippodrome's charitable fund, 'A Place for Everyone', has supported the local community and schools, including offering visits to the theatre to see shows, supporting transport costs, delivery of theatre workshops and tours, funded places for looked after children on youth theatre and dance courses, and enabled artist development in Darlington. Darlington Hippodrome supported a variety of audience development activity in 2023/24. This included supporting a performance of 'Mike and Millie Go To The Seaside' written by Smashing Mirrors Theatre Company, designed for those living with later-stage dementia and attended by residents and carers from North Park Care Centre in June 2023 supported by A Place for Everyone and Heritage & Culture fund. Longstanding partnership work with organisations and services, including Orchestras Live and Durham Music Service supported audience development, with many events within Darlington Hippodrome's 2023/24 programme sharing local talent.

1.5 Proposed Action Plan for 2024/25

The proposed 2024/25 Action Plan tackles the five priorities of Darlington Culture Strategy 2022 – 2026 listed below. We recognise priorities overlap to some degree, and that a revised Council Plan is currently in development. It retains some priorities from the 2023/24 Action Plan with some new priorities introduced, informed by the progress we have made in taking forward and completing capital programmes and by the approach of the S&DR Bicentenary Festival:

1. To creatively celebrate Darlington's contribution to the birth of the modern passenger railway
2. For Darlington to have an accessible, diverse and vibrant culture, encouraging economic growth
3. For Darlington to champion engagement with culture, particularly amongst children and young people
4. For culture to thrive within Darlington Borough and attract visitors to the Town Centre
5. For Darlington to have a thriving theatre offer involving people of all ages

Proposed Darlington Cultural Strategy Action Plan 2024/25					
Priority	What	Lead	Partners	Action(s)	Measure(s) of success
1	Promote the S&DR Bicentenary festival locally, nationally, and internationally through multiple channels Work with the S&DR Bicentenary Festival Director to inform the project plan for Library and or community centre based activity	Darlington Borough Council Darlington Borough Council	Rail Heritage board partners Rail Heritage board partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver 1 year to go Festival launch in September 2024 Liaise with Library Services and community venues and present a draft schedule for exhibitions and activity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased S&DR Social Media Increased Media coverage in 2024 Project plan developed
1	Open the Hopetown Darlington site delivering a world class heritage visitor	Darlington Borough Council	PLB Ltd, Funders, Service providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote opening of Hopetown Darlington programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opening of Hopetown Darlington and visitor numbers

APPENDIX 2

	attraction by mid-summer 2024/25			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Address Art Fund enquiries regarding grant offer and agree plan to unveil new work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Art Fund grant utilised and commissioned work installed
2	Follow the North East Filming Friendly charter and work across services to address location and project development enquiries	Darlington Borough Council	North East Screen, Northern School of Art, Teesside University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respond as per charter to address location and other enquiries as a Filming Friendly Authority, and work with partners to promote opportunities for talent development and locations for filming in borough 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enquiries addressed as per North East Filming Friendly charter Filming undertaken in Darlington borough
3	Work with Children and Young Peoples Plan – Multi Agency Steering Group partners to provide an excellent and accessible cultural offer to children and young people across Darlington borough	Darlington Borough Council	Creative Sector individuals, organisations and enterprises, Creative Darlington, Darlington Academies and Schools, Darlington and Durham Music Hub, Further	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Darlington Borough Council will provide a Children's Library Service, an Events Service, and a Museum's Service providing opportunities for 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Service delivery and outputs

APPENDIX 2

			Education providers in Darlington, Northern School of Art, Teesside University, Tees Valley Combined Authority, Tees Valley Museums, Theatre Hullabaloo and additional Children and Young Peoples Plan – Multi Agency Steering Group partners	children and young people <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Darlington Borough Council will support Darlington Hippodrome and Creative Darlington's work with children and young people 	
3	Darlington Borough Council will support children and young people's cultural engagement through intervention programmes	Darlington Borough Council	Darlington Borough Council, particular Darlington Academies and Schools, cultural sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Darlington Hippodrome will deliver the In2 programme, and Darlington Borough Council will provide cultural opportunities for children and young people through the Holiday Activities Fund 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In2 programme and Holiday Activities Fund cultural programme outputs
4	Support cultural engagement through events, exhibitions and programmes at	Darlington Borough Council	Creative sector, Arts Council England,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme cultural events, exhibitions and activity at 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme outputs and funding secured

APPENDIX 2

	Hopetown Darlington and Darlington Library benefiting families, residents and visitors		National Heritage Lottery Fund	Darlington Library (throughout the year) and Hopetown Darlington (from mid-summer 2024/25)	
4	Support economic growth through Enjoy Darlington offering accessible, diverse and vibrant cultural events, festivals and programmes that contribute to Town Centre animation	Darlington Borough Council	Darlington Borough Council, Darlington Borough Town Centre Partnership, Darlington Partnership, Tees Valley Combined Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote and manage a year-round Town Centre events programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town Centre footfall, estimated attendance at cultural events, media coverage secured
5	Audience development and sector development programmes are led by, promoted by, or held at Darlington Hippodrome	Darlington Hippodrome	Darlington Hippodrome, Creative Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tees Valley Youth Dance programme. Orchestras Live education programme, and A Place for Everyone programme delivered Arts Council England Project Funding proposal submitted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programme outputs Arts Council England Project Funding offer secured

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COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
13 June 2024

WORK PROGRAMME

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

- 1. To consider the work programme items scheduled to be considered by this Scrutiny Committee during the 2024/25 Municipal Year and to consider any additional areas which Members would like to suggest should be added to the previously approved work programme.

Summary

- 2. Members are requested to consider the attached work programme (**Appendix 1**) for the remainder of the 2024/25 Municipal Year which has been prepared based on Officers recommendations and recommendations previously agreed by this Scrutiny Committee.
- 3. Any additional areas of work which Members wish to add to the agreed work programme will require the completion of a quad of aims in accordance with the previously approved procedure (**Appendix 2**).

Recommendation

- 4. It is recommended that Members note the current status of the Work Programme and consider any additional areas of work they would like to include.

Luke Swinhoe
Assistant Director Law and Governance

Background Papers

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

Author: Olivia Hugill
Ext: 5363

S17 Crime and Disorder	This report has no implications for Crime and Disorder
Health and Well Being	This report has no direct implications to the Health and Well Being of residents of Darlington.
Carbon Impact and Climate Change	There are no issues which this report needs to address.
Diversity	There are no issues relating to diversity which this report needs to address

Wards Affected	The impact of the report on any individual Ward is considered to be minimal.
Groups Affected	The impact of the report on any individual Group is considered to be minimal.
Budget and Policy Framework	This report does not represent a change to the budget and policy framework.
Key Decision	This is not a key decision.
Urgent Decision	This is not an urgent decision
Council Plan	The report contributes to the Council Plan in a number of ways through the involvement of Members in contributing to the delivery of the Plan.
Efficiency	The Work Programmes are integral to scrutinising and monitoring services efficiently (and effectively), however this report does not identify specific efficiency savings.
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	This report has no impact on Looked After Children or Care Leavers.

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

5. The format of the proposed work programme has been reviewed to enable Members of this Scrutiny Committee to provide a rigorous and informed challenge to the areas for discussion.

Forward Plan and Additional Items

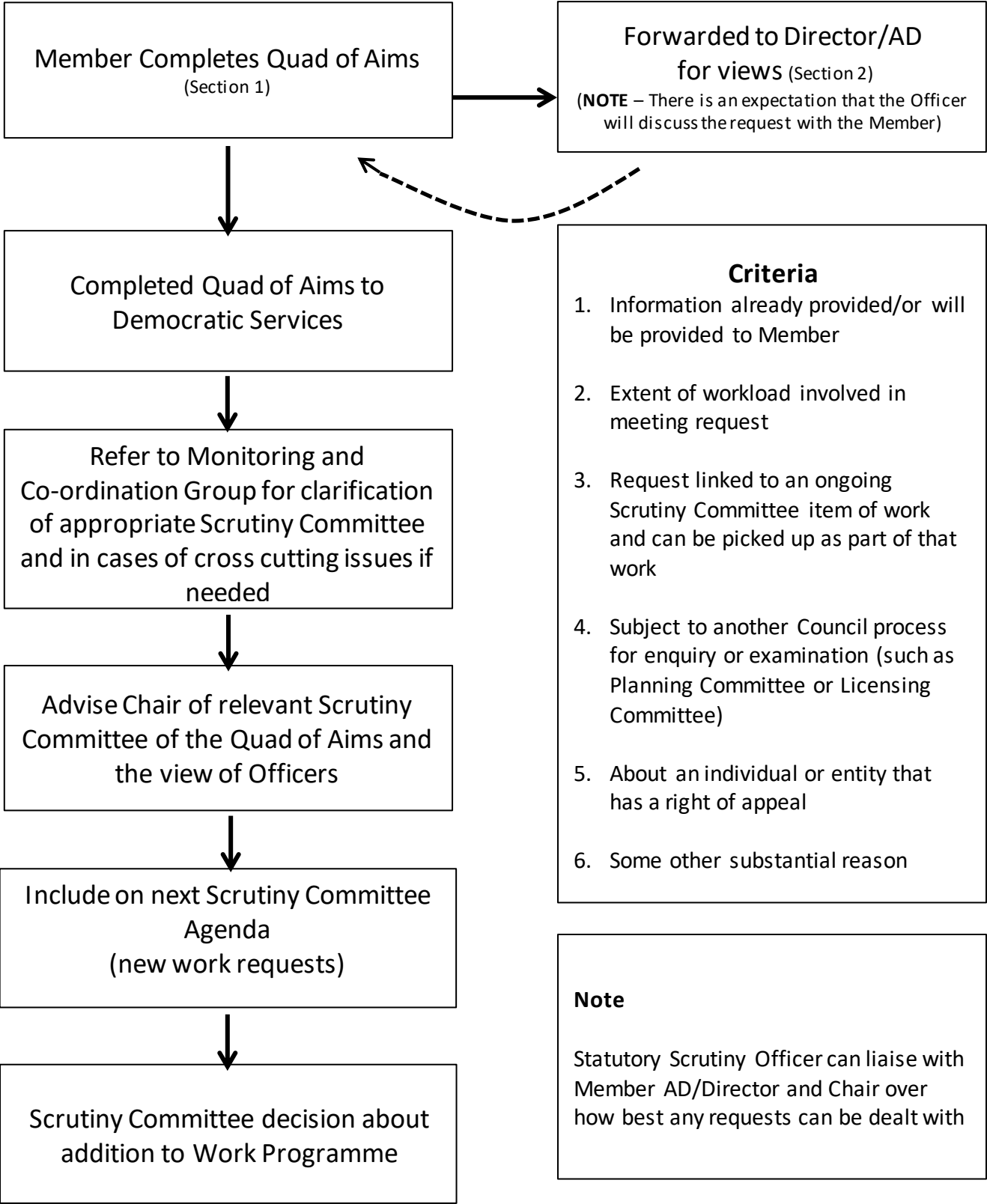
6. Once the Work Programme has been agreed by this Scrutiny Committee, any Member seeking to add a new item to the work programme will need to complete a quad of aims.
7. A copy of the Forward Plan has been attached at **Appendix 3** for information.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

Topic	Timescale	Lead Officer/ Organisation Involved	Link to Performance Management Framework (metrics)	Scrutiny's Role
Performance Management and Regulation/ Management of Change Regular Performance Reports to be Programmed End of Year Performance (including Compliments Comments and Complaints)	16 January 2025 (Q2) Year End August 2024	Relevant AD	Full Performance Management Framework suite of indicators.	To receive quarterly monitoring reports and undertake any further detailed work into particular outcomes if necessary.
Stronger Communities Fund Update	To be agreed Year End August 2024	Stronger Communities Portfolio Holder		To update Scrutiny Members.
Local Transport Plan	To be agreed Last received 22 February 2024	Andy Casey/ Anthony Hewitt		To scrutinise and undertake any further work if necessary.
Public Sector Executive Group 6 Month Review	22 February 2024 Last considered 9 February 2023	Seth Pearson		To scrutinise and undertake any further work if necessary.

Topic	Timescale	Lead Officer/ Organisation Involved	Link to Performance Management Framework (metrics)	Scrutiny's Role
Tree and Woodland Strategy	April / May 2025 Last considered 18 April 2024	Brian Graham		To receive a yearly review of the strategy.
Climate Change Update	To be agreed	Margaret Enstone		
Tees Valley Combined Authority Transport Committee	Last received on 22 February 2024. To be received when published.	Anthony Hewitt		To receive the Minutes from the Tees Valley Combined Authority Transport Committee
Waste Management (to include Tees Valley Energy Recovery Facility)	August 2024 Last considered 21 October 2021	Ian Thompson		To give Scrutiny Members the opportunity to consider prior to Cabinet.
Darlington Cultural Strategy Action Plan for 2023/24	June 2024 Last considered 24 August 2023	Ian Thompson		To update Scrutiny Members.
Public Space Protection Order – Darlington Town Centre	To be agreed Last considered 24 August 2023	Graham Hall/Dave Winstanley		To update Scrutiny Members and undertake any further work if necessary.
Residents' Parking Permits – Differential Charges	To be agreed	Anthony Hewitt		To scrutinise and undertake any further work if necessary.

PROCESS FOR ADDING AN ITEM TO SCRUTINY COMMITTEE’S
PREVIOUSLY APPROVED WORK PROGRAMME



PLEASE RETURN TO DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

QUAD OF AIMS (MEMBERS' REQUEST FOR ITEM TO BE CONSIDERED BY SCRUTINY)

SECTION 1 TO BE COMPLETED BY MEMBERS

NOTE – This document should only be completed if there is a clearly defined and significant outcome from any potential further work. This document should **not** be completed as a request for or understanding of information.

REASON FOR REQUEST?	RESOURCE (WHAT OFFICER SUPPORT WOULD YOU REQUIRE?)
PROCESS (HOW CAN SCRUTINY ACHIEVE THE ANTICIPATED OUTCOME?)	HOW WILL THE OUTCOME MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Signed Councillor

Date

SECTION 2 TO BE COMPLETED BY DIRECTORS/ASSISTANT DIRECTORS
(NOTE – There is an expectation that Officers will discuss the request with the Member)

	Criteria
1. (a) Is the information available elsewhere? Yes No If yes, please indicate where the information can be found (attach if possible and return with this document to Democratic Services) (b) Have you already provided the information to the Member or will you shortly be doing so? 	1. Information already provided/or will be provided to Member
2. If the request is included in the Scrutiny Committee work programme what are the likely workload implications for you/your staff? 	2. Extent of workload involved in meeting request
3. Can the request be included in an ongoing Scrutiny Committee item of work and picked up as part of that? 	3. Request linked to an ongoing Scrutiny Committee item of work and can be picked up as part of that work
4. Is there another Council process for enquiry or examination about the matter currently underway? 	4. Subject to another Council process for enquiry or examination (such as Planning Committee or Licensing Committee)
5. Has the individual or entity some other right of appeal? 	5. About an individual or entity that has a right of appeal
6. Is there any substantial reason (other than the above) why you feel it should not be included on the work programme? 	6. Some other substantial reason

Signed **Position** **Date**

PLEASE RETURN TO DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

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**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**



DARLINGTON

Borough Council

**FORWARD PLAN
FOR THE PERIOD: 5 JUNE 2024 - 30 OCTOBER 2024**

Title	Decision Maker and Date
Darlington Long Term Plan for Town Funds	Cabinet 11 Jun 2024
Release of Education Capital Funds	Cabinet 11 Jun 2024
Representation on Other Bodies 2024/25	Cabinet 11 Jun 2024
Schedule of Transactions - June 2024	Cabinet 11 Jun 2024
Wilkinsons Building Acquisition and Procurement of Development Partner	Cabinet 11 Jun 2024
Collection of Council Tax, Business Rates and Rent 2023-24	Cabinet 9 Jul 2024
Council Plan	Council 25 Jul 2024
	Cabinet 9 Jul 2024
Council Plan Performance Report - Quarter Four	Cabinet 9 Jul 2024
Disabled Facilities Grant 2024/25	Cabinet 9 Jul 2024
Housing Services Domestic Abuse Policy 2024/29	Cabinet 9 Jul 2024
Housing Services Gas and Electrical Safety Policies 2024/29	Cabinet 9 Jul 2024
Land at Faverdale / Burtree Garden Village 'Cell CH' Feasibility Work	Cabinet 9 Jul 2024
Project Position Statement and Capital Programme Monitoring Outturn 2023/24	Cabinet 9 Jul 2024
Public Consultation on Draft Appraisal for the Northgate Conservation Area including Proposed Boundary Extensions	Cabinet 9 Jul 2024
Revenue Budget Outturn 2023/24	Cabinet 9 Jul 2024

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Xentrall Shared Services Annual Report	Cabinet 9 Jul 2024
Annual Review of the Investment Fund	Cabinet 10 Sep 2024
Climate Change	Council 26 Sep 2024 Cabinet 10 Sep 2024
Complaints, Compliments and Comments Annual Reports 2023/24	Cabinet 10 Sep 2024
Complaints Made to Local Government Ombudsman	Cabinet 10 Sep 2024
Land at Faverdale - Burtree Garden Village - Proposed Infrastructure Development Agreement (IDA)	Cabinet 10 Sep 2024
Project Position Statement and Capital Programme Monitoring - Quarter 1	Cabinet 10 Sep 2024
Proposed Middleton St George Conservation Area - Consultation	Cabinet 10 Sep 2024
Regulatory Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA)	Cabinet 10 Sep 2024
Revenue Budget Monitoring - Quarter 1	Cabinet 10 Sep 2024
Treasury Management Annual Report and Outturn Prudential Indicators 2023/2024	Cabinet 10 Sep 2024
Waste Collection Arrangements	Cabinet 10 Sep 2024
Annual Procurement Plan Update	Cabinet 8 Oct 2024
Offset Strategy	Cabinet 8 Oct 2024
Air Quality Strategy 2024/29	Cabinet