

## **Darlington Cultural Strategy Action Plan 2022-2023 delivery and Action Plan for 2023-2024**

### **1.1 Introduction**

Our Cultural Strategy for 2022 to 2026 (Appendix 1: lse0262\_Accessible.pdf) 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), of which this is the first. 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 2022/23 Action Plan and the table following point 1.5 presents the proposed Action Plan for 2023/24 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 2023/24.

#### 1.4: Darlington Culture Strategy Annual Action Plan for 2022-2023

The five priorities of Darlington Culture Strategy 2022-2026 are listed below. Annual action plans will be presented to Darlington Borough Council to address these priorities and to consider and respond positively to unforeseen opportunities and circumstances. 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

<b>Delivery of Darlington Cultural Strategy Action Plan 2022/23</b>					
<b>Priority</b>	<b>What</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Measure(s) of success</b>
1	Develop the content of the 2025 bi-centenary programme proposal	Darlington Borough Council	Darlington Borough Council, Durham County Council, Stockton Borough Council, Rail Heritage Board, Tees Valley Combined Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apply to Arts Council National Lottery Project Grants for National Activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programme agreed and application submitted</li> </ul>
<p><b>Delivery in 2022/23:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Darlington Borough Council and partners have made significant progress in addressing this priority in 2022/23. Following the sign off of a report scoping the scale of the bi-centenary programme by the Rail Heritage Board and a process agreed and enacted to recently appoint a bi-centenary festival director with Tees Valley Combined Authority support. The director is employed through Stockton Borough Council and will develop and manage the programme working with partners.</li> </ul>					

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussions were held by Darlington Borough Council and partners in 2022/23 with Arts Council England around the scale of the opportunity and Darlington Borough Council will work with the festival director to support the development of an application for Arts Council England support in 2023/24.</li> <li>• We are currently in recruitment for a marketing and communications role for the bi-centenary 2025 festival. [</li> <li>• A major street theatre commission for the 2025 bi-centenary festival by Darlington Borough Council and Stockton Borough Council has taken place with an appointment secured.</li> </ul>					
1	Stockton & Darlington railway Heritage Action Zone includes cultural activity in their programme where appropriate	Stockton & Darlington railway Heritage Action Zone	Darlington Borough Council, Durham County Council, Stockton Borough Council, Rail Heritage Board, Tees Valley Combined Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify and progress projects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programmes involving culture developed, funding secured, programme outputs</li> </ul>
<p><b>Delivery in 2022/23:</b> The Stockton &amp; Darlington railway Heritage Action Zone secured £25K in 2022/23 to deliver a programme of engagement and activities along the route of the line with the support of the Friends of Stockton and Darlington Railway. This programme includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing a suit of S&amp;DR learning materials for KS1 and 2 which will be used to support learning activities across the whole of the line.</li> <li>• Production of ‘The Railway that got the world on track’ booklet.</li> <li>• Up to the end of Q3, delivery of 15 S&amp;DR engagement events which attracted over 800 attendees.</li> <li>• Undertaking of research to further understand the role of the Quakers in the development of S&amp;DR and Darlington.</li> <li>• Delivering a Heritage Crime project entitled ‘caring for the S&amp;DR’ which enables the public to directly report problems along the route of the line.</li> <li>• Completion of the S&amp;DR interpretation strategy including proposals of physical and digital interpretation along the route.</li> <li>• Completion of S&amp;DR future management options study which sets out proposals and recommendations on how the S&amp;DR can be protected, cared for, and promoted in future years.</li> <li>• Securing funding for funding to repair and restore heritage assets at risk along the route.</li> </ul>					

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developing funding applications to deliver enhanced physical and digital interpretation for S&amp;DR (subject to securing additional funding this may include cultural programme).</li> </ul>					
1	Creatively celebrate Darlington’s engagement with railways	Darlington Borough Council	Creative Darlington, Darlington Borough Council, Rail Heritage Board, Tees Valley Combined Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the development of creative proposals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proposals developed, funding secured, programme outputs</li> </ul>
<p><b>Delivery in 2022/23:</b> Proposals have been developed and funding secured as below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Darlington Borough Council secured a Commissions programme offer of £38,000 from The Art Fund to commission a suite of public artwork for Darlington Rail Heritage Quarter in February 2023. The works will be created by Andrew McKeown, who we previously commissioned to create and install four railway signs celebrating locomotives with strong associations to Darlington (Derwent, Locomotion No. 1, The Prince of Wales, Tornado) as part of the redesign of the Haughton Road roundabout, and installed before Darlington Rail Heritage Quarter opens to the public.</li> <li>The Head of Steam – Darlington Railway Museum creatively celebrated Darlington’s engagement with railways within their exhibitions, outreach and engagement programmes and through their work with Tees Valley Museums Group.</li> <li>Darlington Borough confirmed budget support (Creative Darlington) in 2022/23 for a proposal in development involving Darlington Choral Society and Citizen Songwriters to create an original choral performance celebrating rail heritage through engagement with a small number of Darlington primary schools and residents. Subject to the proposal securing Arts Council England Project Funding (decision c. September 2023) the new work will be performed in Darlington in 2025/26.</li> <li>Darlington Borough Council has supported work by artist Stephen Bainbridge whose paintings explore railway heritage at the Head of Steam railway museum and through exhibitions at Darlington Library previously. In 2022/23 we reached agreement with Stephen to deliver an exhibiting including work which embodies Darlington’s engagement with the railways in 2023/24.</li> <li>Darlington Borough Council, Darlington Choral Society and Darlington Operatic Society have scheduled to meet in late 2023 with a West End musical director to explore the potential of creating a train themed musical which will be shared in Darlington in 2025/26 subject to budget. Further discussions potential project partners and potential sponsors are scheduled in April 2023.</li> </ul>					

2	Work within Darlington Town's Fund programme brief to encourage visitor spend, enhance place promotion and encourage investment in Darlington borough through culture where appropriate.	Darlington Borough Council	Darlington Borough Council, Darlington Borough Town Centre Partnership, Tees Valley Combined Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore opportunities for cultural sector to further contribute to improvements in the Town Centre streetscape</li> <li>• Progress Rail Heritage Quarter capital programme</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impact on Town Centre economy and footfall</li> <li>• Rail Heritage Quarter capital programme underway in 2022/23</li> </ul>
<p><b>Delivery in 2022/23:</b></p> <p><b>Action:</b> Explore opportunities for cultural sector to further contribute to improvements in the Town Centre streetscape:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plans informed by artist Nicky Peacock to showcase the town's period character and raise the profile of Darlington's historic yards and wynds were taken forward in 2022/23.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action:</b> Progress Rail Heritage Quarter capital programme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Necessary permissions were secured to take forward Darlington Rail Heritage Quarter improvements and to create a significant visitor attraction in Tees Valley which will attract visitors and benefit Darlington residents. Work has officially started on the construction of Darlington's Railway Heritage Quarter, with the Head of Steam railway museum sit handed over to contractor Wilmott Dixon in January 2023.</li> </ul>					
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 Screen, Northern School of Art, Teesside University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with partners to promote opportunities for talent development and locations for filming in Darlington borough</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Darlington participants involved in sector development programmes, filming enquiries answered, and, subject to enquiries, filming</li> </ul>

					undertaken in Darlington borough.
<p><b>Delivery in 2022/23:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Darlington Borough Council promoted various Tees Valley Screen development opportunities for those working within the film sector through Creative Darlington.</li> <li>• Darlington Hippodrome hosted the Women X Film Festival 2022 programmed by Rianne Pictures which highlighted film-making talent from those already established, and those just starting out in the film industry, with a programme selected from 500 films submitted worldwide, all created by women, and ran 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> September 2022. Women X Film Festival 2023 is scheduled to take place at Darlington Hippodrome in September 2024.</li> <li>• Darlington Borough Council addressed a number of enquiries from the film and TV sector in 2022/23 regarding permissions required to film in particular locations, including the Denes and South Park.</li> </ul>					
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, Culture Bridge North East, Darlington Borough Council, Darlington Academies and Schools, Darlington and Durham Music Hub, Further Education providers in Darlington, Teesside	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Darlington Borough Council will provide a Children’s Library Service, an Events Service, and a Museum’s Service providing opportunities for children and young people to engage with their culture and support Darlington Hippodrome’s work</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Service delivery and outputs, successful application by Tees Valley Museums to operate within Arts Council England’s National Portfolio from 2023/34 onwards</li> </ul>

			<p>University, Tees Valley Combined Authority, Tees Valley Museums</p>	<p>with children and young people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allocate part of Darlington Borough Council’s Arts and Heritage budget to support programme with and for children and young people, led by other parties</li> <li>• Darlington Borough Council will work with Tees Valley Museums to support their application to remain within Arts Council England’s National Portfolio from 2023/24</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Delivery in 2022/23</b>  <b>Action:</b> Darlington Borough Council will provide a Children’s Library Service, an Events Service, and a Museum’s Service providing opportunities for children and young people to engage with their culture and support Darlington Hippodrome’s work with children and young people.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Darlington Borough Council offered a popular Children’s Library Service from Cockerton Library (full service including events) and the children’s library book collection from The Dolphin Centre whilst the restoration of Darlington Library was ongoing in 2022/23.</li> </ul>					



- Darlington Town Centre events programme regularly offered events which provided opportunities for children and young people to engage with culture with highlights including Darlington Dance Festival, Darlington Community Carnival, Darlington by the Sea, family engagement during Darlington Pride Weekender, the Christmas Lights switch on and Ice Sculpture Trail. All this alongside their work in safely delivering the South Park fireworks event in 2022 to delight thousands of local attendees.
- The Head of Steam railway museum continued to provide a popular service for young museum visitors and families, working with Tees Valley Museums service where appropriate.
- Darlington Hippodrome worked successfully with children and young people through its programming, including regular dance, drama and music activity as part of its Place for Everyone vision and worked in depth with particular schools through the In2 programme and partnerships with organisations including Orchestras Live.

**Action:** Allocate part of Darlington Borough Council's Arts and Heritage budget to support programme with and for children and young people, led by other parties.

- Darlington Borough Council supported a range of activity led by other parties which engaged children and young people in Darlington in 2022/23, including Blue Cabin CIC, Cabinet of Curiosity Studios, Durham Music Service, Middlesbrough Art Weekender, Orchestras Live and TeesDance through the Creative Darlington budget and other budgets. Several of these parties secured additional external funding to support this work, e.g. Blue Cabin secured a Youth Music grant of c. £30,000 in 2022/23 for their This Is The Place programme, which works with Care experienced Children aged 0-5 and their trusted adults in Darlington, and was also supported through our Virtual School. Working with partners in this way helps attract additional funding to support this priority.

**Action:** Darlington Borough Council will work with Tees Valley Museums to support their application to remain within Arts Council England's National Portfolio from 2023/24.

- Darlington Borough Council museums service worked alongside colleagues from all Tees Valley local authority museums services to support Stockton Borough Council's successful application (as the Local Authority managing NPO budget and staff for Tees Valley Museums) to remain in Arts Council England's National Portfolio of regularly funded organisations from 2023 to 2026. Tees Valley Museums delivery over the previous National Portfolio period (2018 – 2022) and application secured an offer from Arts Council England which significantly increased their funding of Tees Valley Museums from £381,900 in 2022/23 to average annual funding of £601,900 in the 2023 – 2026 National portfolio period.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Through its Arts and Heritage budget Darlington Borough Council will support an agreed programme of activity in Darlington led by Theatre Hullabaloo in 2022/23</li> <li>• Darlington Borough Council will work with Theatre Hullabaloo to support their application in 2022/23 to remain within Arts Council England’s National Portfolio from 2023/24</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theatre Hullabaloo deliver agreed programme in 2022/23</li> <li>• Theatre Hullabaloo apply successfully in 2022/23 to remain in Arts Council England’s National Portfolio of Organisations from 2023/24</li> </ul>

<p><b>Delivery in 2022/23:</b></p> <p><b>Action:</b> Through its Arts and Heritage budget Darlington Borough Council will support an agreed programme of activity in Darlington led by Theatre Hullabaloo in 2022/23.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2022/23 Darlington Borough Council allocated £5,000 budget through Creative Darlington to support Theatre Hullabaloo’s innovative work with children and families in Darlington borough. We have committed £5,000 through Creative Darlington to their Hullabaloo in the Park programme which is expected to engage several thousand people in South Park between 26<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> July 2023.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action:</b> Darlington Borough Council will work with Theatre Hullabaloo to support their application in 2022/23 to remain within Arts Council England’s National Portfolio from 2023/24.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Theatre Hullabaloo applied successfully to retain their place as an Arts Council England National Portfolio from 2023 to 2026. Their delivery over the previous National Portfolio period (2018 – 2022) and application secured an offer from Arts Council England which significantly increased their funding of Theatre Hullabaloo from £254,924 in 2022/23 to average annual funding of £389,924 in the 2023 – 2026 National portfolio period. Darlington Borough Council support through the Creative Darlington budget was shown I their proposal and Tees Valley Combined Authority’s award of significant budget for Hullabaloo in the Park over the same three year period reflects the value of Theatre Hullabaloo delivery.</li> </ul>					
3	Durham Music Service receive funding to support their core offer to schools through Arts Council England as the Music Hub for Darlington and Durham, supporting children’s engagement in choral and ensemble music	Durham Music Service	Darlington Academies and Schools, Durham Music Service, Darlington Borough Council, Darlington Hippodrome, Orchestras Live	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Darlington Borough Council will continue to support children’s engagement in music in Darlington through partnership working with Durham Music Service</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Programme for Darlington pupils involving Durham Music Service, Darlington Hippodrome and Orchestras Live delivered successfully in 2022/23</li> </ul>

<p><b>Delivery in 2022/23:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Durham Music Service received funding in 2022/23 to support their core offer to schools through Arts Council England as the Music Hub for Darlington and Durham. In 2022/23 Darlington Borough Council allocated Creative Darlington budget to support the longstanding partnership between Darlington Hippodrome, Durham Music Service and Orchestras Live which supported London Mozart Players work with pupils from Corporation Road and Whinfield primary schools and encouraged attendance at a London Mozart Players concert at Darlington Hippodrome in November 2022 with further school engagement involving the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment in Spring 2023.</li> <li>• On 21 June 2022 Darlington contributed to World Music Day with several primary schools performing in Darlington Market Square co-ordinated by Durham Music Service with support from Darlington Town Centre Partnership and events service, an evening showcase event at The Forum Music Centre and a free ticketed performance at Darlington Hippodrome co-ordinated by Durham Music Service, which showcased the talents of children and young people from various ensembles alongside those of local artist Jodi Nicholson, whose performance alongside venue costs were supported via the Creative Darlington budget.</li> </ul>					
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Darlington Hippodrome will continue to deliver the In2 programme, and undertake fundraising to extend the programme, subject to positive evaluation</li> <li>• Darlington Borough Council will programme additional cultural</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In2 programme outputs</li> <li>• Holiday Activities Fund backed cultural programme outputs</li> </ul>

				opportunities for children and young people supported by the Holiday Activities Fund	
<p><b>Delivery in 2022/23:</b></p> <p><b>Action:</b> Darlington Hippodrome will continue to deliver the In2 programme, and undertake fundraising to extend the programme, subject to positive evaluation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The In2 programme engaged several hundred pupils from particular Darlington primary schools in 2022/23 as part of Darlington Hippodrome's A Place for Everyone commitment.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action:</b> Darlington Borough Council will programme additional cultural opportunities for children and young people supported by the Holiday Activities Fund.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Darlington Borough Council supported drama activity led by Scott Young and co-ordinated by Move More within its Holiday Activities Fund programme in 2022/23.</li> </ul>					
4	Support economic growth through the Enjoy Darlington campaign, including accessible, diverse and vibrant cultural events, festivals and programmes which enhance the Town Centre.	Darlington Borough Council	Darlington Borough Council, Darlington Borough Town Centre Partnership, Darlington Partnership, Tees Valley Combined Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote and manage a year-round Town Centre events programme</li> <li>Extend the scope of Darlington R 'n' B festival and Darlington Pride</li> <li>Mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with a celebratory programme attracting Town Centre visitors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Town Centre footfall, estimated attendance at cultural events, media coverage secured</li> </ul>

<p><b>Delivery in 2022/23:</b></p> <p><b>Action:</b> Promote and manage a year-round Town Centre events programme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Darlington Borough Council Town Centre Partnership and events service promoted a significant events programme throughout 2022/23, including vibrant cultural events Darlington Dance Festival in May and Darlington Community Carnival on 25 June 2022.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action:</b> Extend the scope of Darlington R 'n' B festival and Darlington Pride.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Darlington Borough Council Town Centre Partnership worked with partners to extend the Darlington Pride, which opened with MonGAY, Darlington's long established Gay Pride night in locals bars and pubs on 8<sup>th</sup> August with a Pride Picnic in South Park on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> August 2022 closing the programme.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action:</b> Mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with a celebratory programme attracting Town Centre visitors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Darlington Borough Council supported an extensive and highly popular programme in the Market Square from 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> June 2022 which incorporated live music (Beatlemania, Cockerton Prize Silver Band, Laura Jane Butler - Amy Winehouse tribute etc) a film screening of Mary Poppins and a live broadcast of the Queen's birthday parade, Trooping of the Colour.</li> </ul>					
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"> <li>Youth Theatre programme promoted</li> <li>Youth Dance programme promoted</li> <li>Audience development programme supported</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Programme outputs</li> </ul>
<p><b>Delivery in 2022/23:</b></p>					

**Action:** Youth Theatre programme promoted.

- Extensive youth theatre provision was offered in Darlington Hippodrome in 2022/23 with sessions for those aged 7 – 10 years, 10 – 13 years, a 14+ group and a newly established Musical Theatre group for those aged 14+.

**Action:** Youth Dance programme promoted.

- Darlington Hippodrome promoted its successful Youth Dance programme in 2022/23 working with Debbie Harbin, supported TeesDance's moveUP programme for 14-19 year olds and hosted a variety of dance performances, including Darlington School Games Dance Festival.

**Action:** Audience development programme supported.

- Darlington Hippodrome supported a variety of audience development activity in 2022/23 including Sarah Li's 'Opening the Closet Doors' programming exploring the Darlington archives for LGBTQ+ stories and hosting a screening of an original film during Darlington Pride Weekender 2022 and engagement with Ukrainian people currently based in and around Darlington borough.

### 1.5 Proposed Action Plan for 2023/24

The 2023/24 Action Plan tackles the five priorities of Darlington Culture Strategy 2022 – 2026 listed below. We recognise these priorities overlap to some degree, and that particular actions address more than one priority. It retains elements of the Action Plan for 2022/23 alongside new actions informed by the progress of current capital programmes, including the restoration of Darlington Library and the creation of Darlington Rail Heritage Quarter:

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

<b>Proposed Darlington Cultural Strategy Action Plan 2023/24</b>					
<b>Priority</b>	<b>What</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Action(s)</b>	<b>Measure(s) of success</b>
1	Assist the 2025 bi-centenary festival director in their development of a proposal seeking significant Arts	Darlington Borough Council	Durham County Council, Stockton Borough Council, Rail Heritage Board, Tees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the fundraising of the 2025 festival director</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fundraising application submitted</li> </ul>



	Council England support by providing information on Darlington borough where requested and available		Valley Combined Authority		
1	Progress the commissioning of rail heritage themed public art within Darlington Rail Heritage Quarter and creatively celebrate Darlington's engagement with railways	PLB for Darlington Borough Council	Creative Darlington, Rail Heritage Board, Tees Valley Combined Authority, The Art Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commission Andrew McKeown to deliver a suite of work informed by Darlington Rail Heritage Quarter Public Art Strategy</li> <li>• Support the development of creative proposals to explore Darlington's rail heritage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rail heritage themed Public Art commissioned by PLB for Darlington Rail Heritage Quarter site in 2023/24</li> <li>• Proposals developed, funding secured, programme outputs (if programmes commence in 2023/24)</li> </ul>
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 Screen, Northern School of Art, Teesside University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with partners to promote opportunities for talent development and locations for filming in Darlington borough</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Darlington participants involved in sector development programmes, filming enquiries answered, and, subject to enquiries, filming undertaken in Darlington borough</li> </ul>

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 and Durham Music Hub, Further Education providers in Darlington, Northern School of Art, Teesside University, Tees Valley Combined Authority, Tees Valley Museums	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Darlington Borough Council will provide a Children’s Library Service, an Events Service, and a Museum’s Service providing opportunities for children and young people to engage with their culture and support Darlington Hippodrome’s work with children and young people</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Service delivery and outputs</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Darlington Borough Council will allocate Arts and Heritage budget to Theatre Hullabaloo’s Hullabaloo in the Park 2023 programme</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theatre Hullabaloo delivery of Hullabaloo in the Park programme in South Park in 2023, festival outputs</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In2 programme and Holiday Activities Fund backed cultural programme outputs</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programme cultural events, exhibitions and activity in Darlington Library</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programme outputs and funding secured</li> </ul>
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"> <li>• Promote and manage a year-round Town Centre events programme</li> <li>• Mark the King's Coronation with a celebratory programme attracting Town Centre visitors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Town Centre footfall, estimated attendance at cultural events, media coverage secured</li> </ul>
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"> <li>• Youth Theatre programme promoted</li> <li>• Youth Dance programme promoted</li> <li>• Audience development programme supported</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programme outputs</li> </ul>