

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. 					

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)
<p>Delivery in 2023/24:</p> <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

			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
<p>Delivery in 2023/24:</p> <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

		<p>and Durham Music Hub, Further Education providers in Darlington, Northern School of Art, Teesside University, Tees Valley Combined Authority, Tees Valley Museums</p>	<p>for children and young people to engage with their culture and support Darlington Hippodrome’s work with children and young people</p>	
<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
<p>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:</p>					

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
<p>Delivery in 2023/24:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
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Delivery in 2023/24:

- 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 an 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

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	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

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			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	<p>children and young people</p> <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

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	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

