

LEVELLING UP DARLINGTON

 Special Report

My message and
update

Plans to transform
Darlington

How we're levelling
up locally

Peter Gibson

PETER GIBSON MP

A message from Peter



By working together with my Conservative colleagues, the Tees Valley Mayor, Ben Houchen, Darlington Borough Council and the Conservative Government, we've been making sure people across Darlington have access to more opportunities to enable them to build a better life for themselves and their families. Levelling Up is more than just a slogan; here in Darlington it is being delivered at pace.

I want to make sure we are helping to create a cleaner and safer town so people can take pride in where they live.

There are more apprenticeships and training opportunities, such as T-Levels, giving people more employability prospects and the skills they need to achieve their full potential.

Levelling Up is about confidence - confidence in yourself, your community and your town. We have only just begun our journey here in Darlington and so much more is yet to be delivered.

I've created this document to highlight some of the things we have already delivered and can already see making an impact to transform our town, both now and for decades to come.

I know that once delivered, Darlington will truly lead the way in the Levelling Up agenda.

Peter Gibson

Member of Parliament for Darlington





Darlington Town Fund: Millions in government cash awarded

The Northern Echo
October 2020

In October 2020, Darlington was successfully awarded £23.3m from the Government's Towns Fund.

This Government funding will complement and extend regeneration projects across Darlington. Areas within the Town Centre have already seen improvements and the work will continue in Northgate, and Victoria Road. Extensive work has been done to deliver the relocation of the Cattle Market.

Initial improvements have already been made to Clark's, Buckton's, Mechanics' Yards, and Post House Wynd. Over the next year, further improvements to our Victorian Indoor Market will be delivered, ensuring it is the rightful focal point of the Town Centre.



Victoria Road Improvements

Victoria Road has been re-vamped as a key street and will play a vital part in our ambitious plans for Darlington Station. As the main thoroughfare into our town, everything from shop fronts, to lighting, to parking are being considered.



Victorian Market Hall

The refurbishment of the market commenced in 2021 and includes street food stalls, new toilets, enhanced entrance areas and a new bar facility.

The next redevelopment phase is the most significant and will have a positive impact on businesses, such as the fruit and veg, fishmonger, and butcher's stalls, all of which will be redeveloped.



These ambitious plans will complement our heritage, while creating a hub which appeals to a wider customer base, helping to sustain the market for many years to come.



WHAT IT MEANS



A cleaner, vibrant and well maintained town centre



Free town centre WiFi



Inclusive experiences and events



A Victorian Market that reflects the changing world, but respects the past



Updated Yards, footpaths and cycleways to improve access for all

The new voices and people leading in Darlington have helped focus our efforts. We're a joined up team delivering for Darlington.



Ben Houchen
Tees Valley Mayor

Demolition work at Darlington railway station ahead of £130m renovation

Teesside Live
December 2021



The Government has allocated a record £139m to transform Darlington Train Station. The project which will transform the areas around the station is already underway. This will also see improvements to the existing station building and platforms.

WHAT IT MEANS FOR YOU

- ✓ Increased rail services
- ✓ Better parking and improved access
- ✓ Increased services direct to Teesside
- ✓ Shorter waiting times between west bound services
- ✓ Modern facilities to complement our traditional station



The new terminal and platforms will be located on the Bank Top side of the station, and will be ready by 2024. Plans are sympathetic to the beautiful Victorian heritage, and will make it a station ready and fit for the future. It will also pave the way for improved rail services for the town and region, helping to connect us with the wider Tees Valley.

Darlington Rail Heritage Quarter 'to put town on world map'

BBC News
March 2022



WHAT IT MEANS FOR YOU

- ✓ A world class transformation of our railway museum
- ✓ Immersive ride and simulator experiences
- ✓ Café, shops and live engineering works
- ✓ Historic buildings fully restored



Due to open in June 2024, Darlington's new Railway Heritage Quarter has been possible after £39m funding from Tees Valley Combined Authority and Darlington Borough Council. Essential improvements will be undertaken on a number of significantly historic buildings on the site, linking them together to create cluster attractions, including the Skerne Bridge; the oldest working railway bridge in the world. The plans also include a café, a shop, a themed playground, a live engineering building, a temporary exhibition space and extended car parking.

We're proud of our railway heritage and this forms a key part of our vision for Darlington as a tourism attraction. The opportunities this transformation will bring for us and our children are incredible.

Darlington confirmed as base for Treasury's northern campus

Teesside Live
March 2021

Darlington Economic Campus
at Feethams



WHAT IT MEANS

- ✓ **1,700 skilled jobs across seven Government Departments**
- ✓ **New state-of-the-art site to be built at Brunswick Street in the town centre**
- ✓ **Senior decision makers here on our doorstep**
- ✓ **Global opportunities for all**



Brunswick Street

Central Park

Central Park is home to Darlington College - a Further Education campus. The building work was completed, costing £35m. Alongside the education buildings are homes built by Keepmoat Homes - a development of 367, two, three and four-bedroom houses for first-time buyers, families and professionals. Government investment at the Central Park has included:

- National Biologics Centre £36m.
- Business Central £6.5m.
- Innovation Central £8m.



Library Investment

Currently undergoing a £3.2m investment programme which will see the retention and return of some original heritage features, roof repairs and replacement; upgrades to technology, and overhaul of mechanical and electrical systems to improve functionality and energy efficiency



This funding is helping us deliver success for Darlington all across the town, and will really level up all areas in our communities.



Councillor
Jonathan Dulston
Leader of Darlington
Borough Council

Riverside and Linear Park

The Linear Park project is ambitious, featuring green space, planting, sustainable drainage and access to the unique riverside setting, including enhanced views of the Skerne Bridge. Ambitions also include finally dealing with Northgate Tower.



Northgate Tower remains
a concern for the area

WHAT IT MEANS FOR YOU

- ✔ We have an approved local plan – requiring approval for developments
- ✔ A wide range of homes for every budget
- ✔ Considered planning, with the community in mind
- ✔ Reduced waiting lists and more choice



WHAT IT MEANS FOR YOU

- ✔ Things to do all year round for you and your family, to create lasting memories
- ✔ Access to services to improve your health and wellbeing

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Special Report 

1,000 new council homes planned for Darlington in 10 years

The Northern Echo
February 2022



Affordable Homes

Darlington is a growing town and it is important we have a balance of homes available for people in all circumstances.

The Council is investing over £30m into Neasham Road, which will see 150 new affordable homes being built, adding to the 300 recently built. This site will have homes to purchase, to rent, and on the right-to-buy scheme.

It is important, as we develop, we also prioritise local services. This means ensuring our road networks are improved and we see increased access to health services such as GPs and dentists in the development of new housing sites in Darlington.

Leisure and Events

We know creating a vibrant and diverse leisure and tourism offer will not only help create jobs and increase visitors, but it will also provide opportunities for families to have fun, create memories and to feel part of the community.

The Hippodrome has received £1.5m from the Culture Recovery Fund – helping to sustain it for the long term.

The Dolphin Centre has seen £3.5m invested in recent years, seeing the introduction of a bowling alley, new soft play area, refurbished gym, and now a brand new pool.

Eastbourne Sports Complex £1.6m of investment will see a complete new athletics track installed this year, and a new all weather football pitch, complete with spectators stand.

South Park Fireworks returned in 2022 with more than 20,000 local people attending.



Town Centre Events, thousands of people came along to the dozens of events in the Market Square last year, whether for the Jubilee, Rhythm & Blues Festival, film nights, or Darlington Pride, the events helped attract many visitors and customers to the town.

Opening of safe space in town will provide 'haven' for vulnerable women and victims of crime

The Northern Echo
August 2022



Safer Streets Fund

Since 2020 the Government has awarded Darlington more than £1.32m as part of the Home Office's Safer Streets Fund, helping to focus on high crime areas and to provide intervention work on specific localised issues, such as antisocial behaviour, door step crime and targeted campaigns like Operation Endurance.

More Police for Darlington

Durham Constabulary has received an extra £9.7m in funding since 2020, enabling the force to recruit more police officers and modernise their fleet of police vehicles. This has also seen an increase in capacity to answer more 101 and 999 calls.

College Expansion & T-Levels

Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College is currently expanding, as well as T-Levels being introduced at Darlington College.

T-Levels are a technical course with a focus on practical skills



WHAT IT MEANS

- ✓ A diverse range of courses to meet various skill sets
- ✓ Expanded capacity at our Further Education sites

Government support

In Focus

- ✓ More than £336 million was provided to Darlington during the COVID-19 Pandemic, including support for testing facilities, business grants and community support.
- ✓ £500k awarded to Darlington Council since 2022 to support with homelessness.
- ✓ £5.6m extra funding allocated to County Durham and Darlington NHS Trust last year to help with winter pressures and A&E demands.
- ✓ £913k extra provided to Darlington Borough Council to help families during school holiday with food and activities.
- ✓ £222k for Darlington Borough Council to support and assist anyone fleeing domestic abuse.



WHAT IT MEANS FOR YOU

- ✓ 157 new Police officers for Durham Constabulary
- ✓ A modern police service and fleet
- ✓ Night time safety HUB in Darlington town centre
- ✓ Reduction in crime and anti-social behaviour
- ✓ Safer communities and tougher sentences

LEVELLING UP DARLINGTON

Special Report



DARLINGTON



DARLINGTON
Conservatives

PUTTING DARLINGTON ON THE MAP