



COUNTY DURHAM CULTURAL PARTNERSHIP - BOARD MEETING

**Thursday 12th January, 2017
Dawdon Youth and Community Centre**

NOTE OF MEETING

Present

- Roger Kelly - Chair
- Sally Dixon - Beamish Museum
- Jane Whittaker - The Bowes Museum
- Andy Jackson - Cobweb
- Eileen Atkins - Culture Bridge North East
- Ruth Robson - Durham Cathedral
- Cllr Neil Foster - Durham County Council
- Steve Howell - Durham County Council
- Jane Shaw - Durham Creatives
- Mike Summers - Durham Music Service
- Keith Bartlett - Durham University
- Tony Harrington - The Forge
- Alexandra Watson - Historic England
- Martin Wilson - TIN Arts
- Michelle Gorman - Visit County Durham
- Jane Hedges - County Durham Cultural Partnership

Apologies

- Nicholas Baumfield - Arts Council
- Chris Ferguson - Auckland Castle
- Richard Evans - Beamish Museum
- Adrian Jenkins - The Bowes Museum
- Richard Dowson - Durham County Cricket Club
- Paul Kirkman - National Railway Museum
- Frank Wilson - Event International

1 East Durham Creates – Presentation by Nikki Locke

	Action
Nikki Locke gave a presentation about the work being undertaken by East Durham Creates. The project has been supported by Arts Council England since 2014 and was recently awarded a further £1 million to	

continue through to 2020. The project works across the East Durham area and aims to involve more people in arts and creative activity. It works with residents to deliver an ambitious arts programme which is community-led distinctive to the area. Nikki invited the group to view the exhibition of light artworks, Neon n That, created by Stuart Langley, Mick Stephenson and local residents, in the Community Centre at the end of the meeting.	
---	--

2 Minutes of Meeting 29th September 2016 and Matters Arising

	Action
The minutes of the meeting were agreed as an accurate record.	
KB noted that the SDR proposals are similar to a project had been submitted for HLF several years ago but had been unsuccessful. There would be value in contacting HLF to ask for sight of the previous bid.	JH

3 County Durham Cultural Education Partnership (CDCEP)

	Action
EA reported that the LCEP had changed its name to the County Durham Cultural Education Partnership. She updated the group on the progress being made on the Cultural Passport. Ideas for the Passport are being tested. It will be launched to teachers at the Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural education conference on 31 st March. Its exact form has not yet been determined. RK said that when there is a clear narrative the CDCP Board will consider it with a view to endorsing it. EA noted that the Board will be updated on developments. She said that the CDCEP intends to work in close alignment with the Board.	EA/MS EA

4 Visit County Durham – new developments

	Action
MG gave a presentation covering destination performance in 2015 and new developments for 2017. A copy of the presentation is attached to this note. She encouraged partners to use the This is Durham - Place of Light brand and its themes (brand guidelines can be found on the Visit County Durham website http://www.visitcountydurham.org/media-room/destination-brand-guidelines)	

5 Support for the Future Development of a Commemorative Plaque Scheme in County Durham

	Action
<p>SH presented the scheme noting that it was a County Council initiative and would be funded by the County Council but proposed that decisions on the awarding of commemorative plaques should be made by CDCP. The intention was for CDCP to own the scheme, celebrate the awards and take the credit for it.</p> <p>Cllr Foster highlighted the importance of working with families and communities in operating the scheme.</p> <p>SH is seeking volunteers to participate in a working group to establish the scheme and to agree a panel to make the decisions. SD said that Beamish would be happy to participate in the working group.</p> <p>RK suggested that an audit of the plaques already in place would be of value, as would future development of a Commemorative Plaque Trail.</p> <p>It was agreed to:</p> <p>i) run a Commemorative Blue Plaque scheme annually, under the auspices of the CDCP.</p> <p>ii) establish a CDCP working group to liaise with the DCC team in establishing the programme. JH to contact Board members to seek volunteers.</p> <p>iii) receive further information on the implementation of the scheme at the next Partnership meeting and to seek final approval from the Council's ReaL management team.</p>	JH/SH

6 Northern Heartlands Great Place Scheme Update

	Action
<p>The Board received an update on the bid which had been submitted on 11th January 2017. It was noted that the Expression of Interest submitted in the Autumn had not been a joint submission but from the Northern Heartlands Partnership with a letter of support from the CDCP Chair. A further letter had been sent in support of the final bid. The CDCP Chair had accepted an invitation to sit on the Northern Heartland's Advisory Board although he would prefer another Board member to take on this role. SH noted that he will be on the Advisory Group representing DCC and could represent CDCP as well. A decision on the submission will be made by the end of March 2017.</p> <p>It was agreed that the Board will agree representation on the Advisory Group should the bid be successful.</p>	RK/JH

7 Action Plan Progress

	Action
The Board discussed the Action Plan progress report.	
Calendar of cultural events and scope for coordination and collaboration will be considered through a re-established Events Forum. It was agreed that the chair of the forum would rotate. RR volunteered to chair the first meeting. JH to contact Board members with a date for the first meeting.	JH
Education - the Cultural Passport will be launched to teachers at the SMSC conference on 31 st March. Progress will be reported to the Board.	EA
Art Forms – Nicholas Baumfield has been asked to give consideration to identification of audiences and aspirations for growth for major art forms and priorities to inform future programming and content. To be reported back to a future meeting.	NB/JH
International – KB presented a paper which was tabled at the meeting. A task and finish group of 4-6 people will be established and report back to the Board. RR volunteered to participate in the group. JH to put out a call for volunteers.	JH/KB
Collections – discussions on-going between RK, Beamish, the Cathedral, the Bowes Museum, Durham University, Durham County Council regarding increasing accessibility and developing new audiences across the County.	RK/SD/RR/AJ/KB/SH
Festivals – RK said that ideally the Partnership would have prepare a vision for festivals across the County. SH undertook to prepare a ‘State of the Nation’ paper.	SH
Churches and chapels / underused heritage buildings – although there is scope for some work on this to be taken forward in Teesdale and Weardale through the Northern Heartlands project, should it secure funding, this would only partially take forward the CDCP action. Discussions will need to draw in Inspired North East and the Redundant Churches Trust. SD suggested that Highlights Rural Touring could contribute to thinking on this. RK/JH will convene a meeting of interested parties to take this work stream forward. SH suggested that the Area Action Partnerships could be asked to	RK/JH

<p>assist in identifying underused/disused buildings and where there was scope within communities to bring them back into use/increase their usage.</p> <p>It was noted that the DCMS consultation ends on 31st January. RK will respond to the consultation on behalf of CDCP.</p>	RK
<p>New website – JH asked partners to send her high resolution images for inclusion on the site. The intention is for a full report and presentation to be brought to the next Board meeting; the site to go live when the Board has agreed it; and the final version launched to the wider partnership at the annual conference in June.</p>	All JH/DCC
<p>Cultural Audit – this is progressing well despite a hiatus due to staff departures. This will be shared with Board members asap and included on the website when it goes live.</p>	JH/DCC

8 Coordination of Programmes

	Action
<p>Scope for coordination and collaboration and next steps will be considered through a re-established Events Forum. It was noted that the Events Forum had been useful and that coordination between large organisations was of help to smaller organisations in shaping their own offer. It was suggested that the forum should discuss the practicalities of developing a clash/themes diary. Concerns were voiced regarding organisations capacity to upload information to an additional location. It was noted that there may be sensitivity around the planning of some events and that it may be worth considering different art forms separately.</p> <p>It was agreed that the chair of the forum would rotate. RR volunteered to chair the first meeting. JH to contact Board members with a date for the first meeting.</p>	RR JH

9 Member Update Reports

	Action
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Board received the report and provided the following additional information: • Beamish - attracted 93,000 visitors over the Christmas period • Durham Creatives - working with rural creative businesses at the Dales Centre, with East Durham Creates and on projects in Newcastle. • Durham Cathedral had a very busy period from Advent to Christmas and from Christmas to new year. Capital work continues 	

<p>on the Great Kitchen and the tower.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cobweb has started a new orchestra in Ludworth. • DCC - the DLI collection will be opening in March; looking at how Brass will be managed alongside the Miners Gala; preparing a NPO submission; 35,000 tickets were sold for the recent pantomime at the Gala Theatre and 16,000 have already been sold for the 2017/18 pantomime; • TinArts – NPO bid is being written; • Durham University – Hearing Voices at Palace Green has been extended until 26th February and ‘The best words in the best order’ - Poetry in Durham and the North East until 12th March; • Durham Music Service – currently preparing for the Durham Vocal Festival. 	
--	--

10 Any Other Business

	Action
SH confirmed that the CDCP is aligned to the County Durham Economic Partnership.	

11 Dates of Future Meetings

	Action
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday 30th March • Thursday 25th May • Tuesday 20th June – Annual Conference • Thursday 14th September • Thursday 30th November 	