



**COUNTY DURHAM CULTURAL PARTNERSHIP - BOARD MEETING**

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2016**

**Ushaw, Durham**

**NOTE OF MEETING**

**Present**

- Roger Kelly - Chair
- Nicholas Baumfield - Arts Council
- Anna Harnden - Auckland Castle
- Ruth Robson - Durham Cathedral
- Cllr Neil Foster - Durham County Council
- Steve Howell - Durham County Council
- Richard Dowson - Durham County Cricket Club
- Jane Shaw - Durham Creatives
- Anna Siddall - Durham University
- Frank Wilson - Event International
- Tony Harrington - The Forge
- Martin Wilson - TIN Arts
- Matthew Jarratt - Consultant
- Jane Hedges - County Durham Cultural Partnership

**Apologies**

- Richard Evans - Beamish Museum
- Sally Dixon - Beamish Museum
- Adrian Jenkins - Bowes Museum
- Jane Whittaker - Bowes Museum
- Eileen Atkins - Culture Bridge
- Keith Bartlett - Durham University
- Gary Campbell - Locomotion
- Michelle Gorman - Visit County Durham

**1 Minutes of Meeting 11<sup>th</sup> February 2016 and Matters Arising**

	Action
The minutes of the meeting on 11 <sup>th</sup> February were agreed as an accurate record. There were no matters arising that would not be covered on the agenda.	

## 2 Cultural Vision and Action Plan

	Action
JH noted that the comments received at the last meeting had been incorporated. The foreword and the calendar are in preparation. Subject to a final proof reading and subject to comments at the meeting, the document is complete.	RK/MJ/JH
MJ will complete the short advocacy document which presents the key messages from the Vision and Action Plan.	MJ
MJ advised the group that Northumberland will be bringing out their cultural strategy soon. He sees benefit in Visit County Durham working closely with Northumberland.	
A number of changes to the text of the Vision were agreed, as follows: Page 5 – Paragraph – ‘Durham has the ability to train and build skills ...’ add a bullet point to read, ‘Auckland Castle is working with Bishop Auckland College to provide 34 apprenticeships.’ Page 7 – Opportunities/Challenges/Marketing/3 <sup>rd</sup> line – ‘...Durham’s <b>collective</b> cultural offer...’ Page 7 – Opportunities/Challenges/Excitement – Concern was expressed that this could undermine the good work and investment already in place around individual projects. MJ noted that there is little awareness of the ‘suite’ of major projects in Durham. It was agreed that this should be re-phrased to reflect the need for a stronger collective approach to generating excitement. Page 10 – first bullet point/ ‘International’, to be reworded. Page 10 – final bullet point/‘Business Advice’/second line – replace ‘business plans’ with business ‘ <b>development</b> ’. Page 12 – C4C aspiration 5/final bullet point, ‘Hidden Treasures’ – reword first line to read, ‘Unite the art collections of <b>venues across Durham</b> and open them up to...’.	MJ
NB suggested that the importance of diversity could be addressed in the foreword. He commented that the number of contributors to the consultation was very powerful in galvanising partners in the County.	RK
It was agreed that, subject to the changes agreed, and sign-off by partner organisations represented on the Board, the document would be launched at the AGM.	RK/MJ/JH/All
Copies of the final document will be sent, at the appropriate time, to all those consulted.	JH

## 3 Great North Exhibition

	Action
MJ reported that Iain Watson, Director of Tyne and Wear Archives and Museums, is calling a meeting of partners across the region to	MJ

<p>consider preparing a regional bid to host the Great Exhibition of the North in 2018. The competition will close in June this year and the chosen venue will be announced in the Autumn.</p> <p>The Board agreed that it was interested in participating in a regional bid but would prefer it to be led by the North East Cultural Partnership than by TWAMs as a museums focus may not be appropriate.</p>	
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4 The Culture White Paper and the Culture, Media and Sport Committee Consultation

	Action
<p>JH introduced the White Paper and it was agreed that although it reflected much of the activity already underway in County, there was little new.</p> <p>RR welcomed the additional £20m to extend the First World War Centenary cathedral repairs fund and the review to examine how church buildings and cathedrals in England can become more financially sustainable.</p> <p>MJ commented that there were some useful 'hooks' at the end of each section of the document that were worthy of note.</p> <p>NB drew attention to Ed Vaizey's foreword which refers to the importance of political leadership at national, regional and local levels and leadership across the sector. He also mentioned the new Great Place scheme which DCMS will develop with the National Lottery distributors etc, to support communities in realising local cultural visions.</p> <p>SH referred the group to Sir Peter Bazalgette's speech to the National Local Government Network  <a href="http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/sites/default/files/download-file/Sir-Peter-Bazalgette_NLGN-Speech_13-04-2016.pdf">http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/sites/default/files/download-file/Sir-Peter-Bazalgette_NLGN-Speech_13-04-2016.pdf</a></p>	
<p>MJ advised the Board that the Culture, Media and Sport Committee consultation, which focusses on the main challenges facing the cultural sector today, the impact of local authority funding constraints and the balance of funding between London and the regions, closes on 22<sup>nd</sup> April. The North East Cultural Partnership is preparing a response which is being discussed with Julie Elliott MP. prior to submission.</p> <p>MJ commented that an unusual process had been employed by Government in that a further consultation was carried out immediately after publication of the White Paper.</p> <p>MJ will keep the CDCP informed.</p>	MJ

5 Cultural Audit

	Action
JH informed the Board that she is collaborating with Nick Malyan, the County Council's Community Arts Development Officer on the audit. Two new members of staff have been appointed to Nick's team and part of their role is to work on a cultural audit. Duplication between the County Council and the CDCP is being avoided.	JH

6 AGM

	Action
<p>JS presented a proposal for the AGM (paper tabled at meeting and circulated with minutes). She highlighted the importance of having clear aims for the event. She proposed that the Vision and Action Plan should be presented as the Partnership's aspirations, based on interviews and on ideas arising from the 2015 AGM and that partners should be invited to consider how they can contribute to the delivery. MJ suggested that Visit County Durham could be given a slot in the morning to look at the benefits of greater collaboration on promotion of cultural activity between partners.</p> <p>Suggestions of famous Durham people to launch the event were discussed, including Bill Bryson.</p> <p>The venue (Durham Town Hall) and the proposal to have lunch provided by a pop-up café were agreed.</p> <p>Cllr Foster suggested that an alternative date would be advisable as 23<sup>rd</sup> June is the date of the EU Referendum. <i>(The date of the AGM has subsequently been changed to Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> June).</i></p> <p>FW questioned who may be expected to interest in the event.</p> <p>NB noted that by highlighting what is already going on, opportunities for artists become apparent to them.</p> <p>RR supported this view with the observation that artists will create their own commissioning opportunities when they become more aware of what is happening with the larger cultural organisations.</p>	JS/JH

7 LCEP

	Action
<p>TH presented a report on the LCEP which had been prepared by EA. It was noted that the LCEP is effectively filling a gap emerging in the education sector.</p> <p>SH said that the partnership would need to consider how to present the benefits of the Cultural Passport and that perhaps this would take the form of discounts. He questioned whether there are funding streams that can be tapped.</p>	

8 Major Projects

	Action
<p><u>Land of the Saints</u>            SH presented proposals (report tabled at the meeting and circulated with minutes) from the sub-group and noted that this is emerging as a far smaller scale action plan than originally envisaged. It will focus on joint promotion.            It was agreed that it will be called Land of the Northern Saints again. Auckland Castle will join the working group.</p>	

9 Member Updates

	Action
<p>AH – Auckland Castle is planning a phased opening of its three new museums, subject to funders’ agreement. There will be a video installation in May, which is a first for this venue.            FW – Event International is working on a new dance performance at Dance City, which will then go on to tour.            AS – Durham University’s Somme exhibition will run until October. A consultation is being held into what should go into the DLI exhibition. They are running a lively programme of events.            JS – Working with the Dales Centre in Stanhope.            RD – Hosting a test match against Sri Lanka - 27<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> May. Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> May is being marketed at Super Sunday. Two cricketers will work with local talent. The event will link into the brass festival.            Simply Red is playing on 3<sup>rd</sup> June.            TH – The Defined Voices programme is gathering pace. They will go to New York in May and will then perform at Durham Cathedral.            The Forge continues to deliver Artsmark on behalf of Cultural Bridge: the North East is the highest achiever in the Country and Durham is the highest in the North East.            NB – ACE will launch a new funding round in the Autumn. The Chief executive has been to the region and is returning soon.            RR – The opening date for Open Treasure will be announced on 27<sup>th</sup> April. A food festival is to be held over the coming weekend.            SH – A DLI walk through exhibition is being held in the Gala in the Summer. The DLI research/study/library facility at Spennymoor is ready. The County Council intends to hold a big exhibition at Bowes every year and is seeking agreement with the V&amp;A to deliver at least one. Libraries remain a big issue. The Council is working with Picture House Cinemas to run the Gala Cinema. Lumiere and the Book Festival have received awards nominations.</p>	