

Some earlier visions

One Darlington

- creating and maintaining a good quality of life by and for everyone in Darlington (One Darlington), &
- making Darlington the best possible place to live and work (Perfectly Placed).

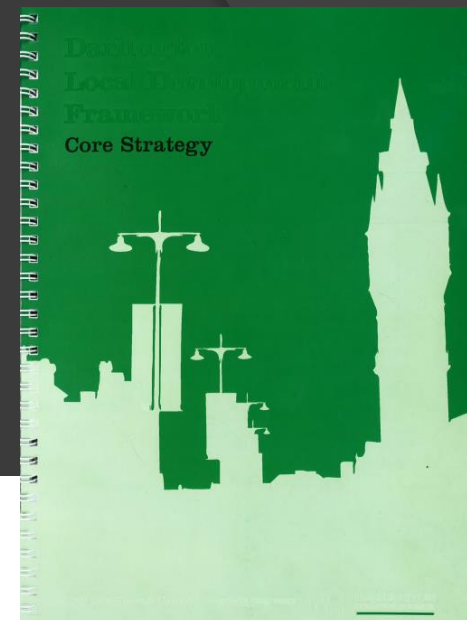


Perfectly Placed:

Is about shaping and improving Darlington as a place by helping to:

- guide investment decisions, spatial planning and care for the environment;
- strengthen the economy; and
- make sure that Darlington has the right homes, jobs, facilities and transport to enable it to thrive.

LDF Core Strategy, 2011



A SPATIAL VISION FOR DARLINGTON

The vision sets out the kind of place we want Darlington to be in 2026, indicating the main features of the development pattern, the types and forms of development and land use change that will be required to get there.

'By 2026 Darlington will be a more sustainable community, where a real step change has been achieved in enhancing the quality of life and local environment, and expanding local opportunities for work and for sustainable travel. Those who live in, work in or visit the Borough will enjoy the opportunities and vibrant life of an ambitious city, but within the fabric of a friendly, historic market town with a distinctive atmosphere, surrounded by attractive countryside and villages'

Darlington Economic Strategy

- A thriving business sector & world class business infrastructure
- Our economic success is underpinned by quality of place
- Key sites at Central Park and the Town Centre Fringe have been developed.

OUR VISION FOR 2026

In 2026 Darlington is a vibrant and distinctive borough.

"Made in Darlington" is an internationally recognised brand. We are exporting our expertise in advanced engineering, construction and fabrication across the globe, with particular strengths in sub-sea technologies, oil and gas and offshore wind. Global businesses and research institutions share world class facilities at the Darlington Advanced Engineering Park.

Our business services sector is also thriving, building on our strengths in shared service centres, outsourcing and in digital media. Darlington is the leading UK training centre for digital media and journalism.

Our business infrastructure is world class. Darlington has one of the best business creation and business survival rates in the country, underpinning our position as a hotbed of creativity and entrepreneurial innovation.

To support our businesses we offer a range of town centre and edge of town office and industrial sites to meet the needs of indigenous firms and inward investors.

Key sites at Central Park and in the Town Centre Fringe have been developed through innovative partnerships between developers, infrastructure providers and the Council.

Our strategic location on the East Coast Main Line and A1 continues to be an important attraction for mobile businesses; through investment in ultrafast broadband, Darlington is one of the top 10 connected places in the UK.

Our economic success is underpinned by Darlington's quality of place. We offer a wide range of affordable and executive housing to meet the needs of families and young professionals.

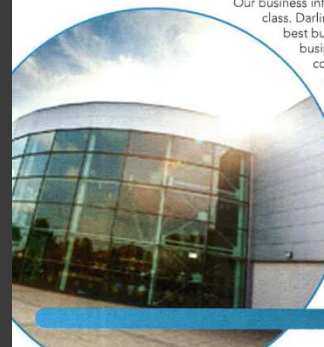
Our town centre has retained its strong market town character and has a unique mix of high quality independent and multiple retailers serving the Tees Valley, North Yorkshire and South Durham.

In 2026 Darlington attracted over 1 million day visitors from outside the region, drawn by its mix of shopping, leisure and heritage attractions, including a revitalised market and a major cinema complex. The arts offer is strong, with a range of venues and activities.

In 2025 we led the world in celebrating the bi-centenary of the Stockton and Darlington Railway, founded by George Stephenson.

Our people are our strongest asset. Working together, Darlington Colleges and Teesside University deliver more highly skilled apprentices and graduates in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics than any other institutions in the UK, serving Cummins, Hitachi and other key employers. Our businesses also offer an unparalleled range of work experience, internship and other support for young people in our schools.

Darlington offers the right place, people, infrastructure and business conditions to deliver long-term, sustainable economic growth.



And many other visions.....

- Local Transport Plan Strategy, 2011-26
- Tees Valley Combined Authority's Statement of Ambition – to 2025
- Darlington Green Infrastructure Strategy

....and national policy context to consider

- National Planning Policy Framework
- Ministerial Statements
- Implications of annual Budget and Spending Review
- New legislation

Some things the new Darlington Local Plan could deliver....

- High quality, sustainable places
- New housing to meet identified needs
- Economic growth, new jobs and prosperity
- A vibrant town centre, accessible shops & services
- Celebrated and protected heritage assets, important landscapes and key open spaces
- Joined up planning of transport, social provision and development to meet needs of existing and future residents and businesses
- Inclusive and accessible places
- Increased resilience to climate change

What do you think?