

LEVELLING UP DARLINGTON

GENERAL ELECTION SPECIAL EDITION



My message and future plans

What's been done to level up locally

Plans to transform Darlington

PETER GIBSON

DELIVERING *For*

DARLINGTON

A message from Peter

It has been the honour of my life to serve the people of Darlington as your MP, to the absolute best of my ability. I have worked tirelessly on many issues both locally and in Parliament. 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.

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

I have a proven track record of delivering for thousands of people, and I'm proud of many of the things that we've achieved for the town, including the delivery of the Darlington Economic Campus, which has already delivered over 750 new jobs, the work that's gone into the Rail Heritage Quarter, together with the work at Bank Top Station.

We've secured the funding for the northern bypass, we've seen investment at CPI and at Cummins, investment in education and the Towns Fund is transforming our town centre.

We are looking forward to the delivery of a much-needed new special educational needs school and the re-opening of the dental practice at Firthmoor.

Tried. Tested. Trusted. A record of delivery. On the 4th July, please put Darlington first and give me your support, so I can continue to serve you well.

Peter Gibson





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



Adult education HUB at Northern Echo building



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



Updated Yards, footpaths and cycleways to improve access for all

Peter's determination and leadership in Darlington has helped focus our efforts. We're a joined-up team delivering for Darlington.



Ben Houchen
Tees Valley Mayor

PETER GIBSON
DELIVERING For
DARLINGTON

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

Teesside Live
December 2021



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



The new terminal and platforms will be located on the Bank Top side of the station and will be ready by the end of 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. 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.

PETER GIBSON
DELIVERING For
DARLINGTON

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

WHAT IT MEANS

- ✔ **1,700+ skilled jobs across seven Government Departments, with 750 jobs already here**
- ✔ **New state-of-the-art site to be built at Brunswick Street in the town centre**
- ✔ **Senior decision makers here on our doorstep**
- ✔ **Better job opportunities for local people**

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 Central Park has included:

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



Library Investment

Crown Street Library was saved with a £3.2m investment programme. The plans saw 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.



£250m secured for a Northern Link Road

A new link road involves linking the A66 with the A1(M) to the north of Darlington. The Tees Valley Combined Authority has signed off the plans after a long campaign to secure funding from Government.

- ✔ **Gridlock coming to an end!**

Darlington Economic Campus at Feethams



Brunswick Street



“Peter’s voice has been heard loud and clear over the last few years, which has enabled unprecedented funding for our town”


Councillor
Jonathan Dulston
Conservative Group Leader

PETER GIBSON

DELIVERING For

DARLINGTON

Dental services to return to Firthmoor Community Centre in Darlington

The Northern Echo
April 2024



Access to dentists

NHS officials have confirmed a new provider will offer urgent dental services in the community after a lengthy campaign by Peter Gibson. Work is ongoing to provide wider general dental services and we should see that develop more over the next few months.

WHAT IT MEANS FOR YOU

- ✓ A wide range of homes for every budget
- ✓ Considered planning, with the community in mind
- ✓ Reduced housing waiting lists and more choice



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

The Dolphin Centre saw £3.5m invested by the Conservatives, seeing the introduction of a bowling alley, new soft play area, refurbished gym, and now a brand-new pool.

Eastbourne Sports Complex obtained £1.6m of investment to complete a new athletics track, which was installed this year, and a new all-weather football pitch, including a spectator's stand was delivered by the Conservative Council.

South Park Fireworks returned in 2022 with more than 20,000 local people attending. The new Labour Council cancelled these.

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



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

PETER GIBSON

DELIVERING For

DARLINGTON



Darlington school for autistic pupils approved by government

BBC News
March 2023



Safer Streets Fund

Since 2020 the Government has awarded Darlington more than £1.5m 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, doorstep 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
- ✔ Increased 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

- ✔ New SEN School being built in Darlington
- ✔ 239 new Police officers for Durham Constabulary
- ✔ A modern police service and fleet
- ✔ Number 40 nighttime safety HUB in Darlington town centre
- ✔ Reduction in crime and anti-social behaviour
- ✔ Safer communities and tougher sentences



PETER GIBSON
DELIVERING For
DARLINGTON

MY PLAN AND FOCUS FOR THE FUTURE

FREE PARKING FOR DARLINGTON TOWN CENTRE

Helping to support local businesses and visitors

SECURE A NEW STADIUM FOR DARLINGTON FC

Helping to support our local grassroots club

DEMOLISH NORTHGATE TOWER

Improving Northgate and improving the area

DELIVER THE NORTHERN BYPASS

£250m already secured, let's see spades in the ground

£20M LONG TERM PLAN FOR TOWNS

Spend the extra money making Darlington even better

DELIVER A MULTI-STOREY CAR PARK AT OUR HOSPITAL

Better access for patients, staff and visitors at DMH

BROWN TOURIST SIGNS FOR THE A1

Driving more visitors to Darlington

RESTORE THE SOUTH PARK FOUNTAIN

We know what needs to be done let's get cracking

CONTINUE TO PRESS THE LABOUR COUNCIL

To keep Darlington tidy, and fill every pothole

PETER GIBSON

DELIVERING For

DARLINGTON