

Appendix A



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29th March 2018

Dear Stuart

Re: One Darlington Partnership funding

You will shortly receive an invoice for your £7,500 contribution towards One Darlington Partnership and we thank you for your continued commitment.

As confirmed at the last Board meeting there is a continuing strong commitment to working together through the Partnership. This year we will be reviewing how we focus our energies but the strong relationships and the core values of respect, openness and a willingness to act at the heart of the Partnership continue to be recognised as invaluable assets.

We continue to drive forward action which addresses our ambitions laid out in One Darlington: Perfectly Placed. The Partnership has forged a particularly important role in Building Strong Communities: one of the three pillars of the strategy. For example:

- Darlington Cares, the corporate social responsibility collaboration that we developed in 2012 continues to grow and provided 4,800 hours of volunteering last year
- The Partnership held a second volunteering fair. Over 60 voluntary and community groups exhibited. Feed-back from exhibitors was extremely positive with many new volunteer having been recruited.

Through our review of progress towards the objectives of One Darlington: Perfectly Placed we identified domestic violence as an area where our collective efforts could have a positive impact. In collaboration with the Police Crime and Victims' Commissioners office we launched a campaign

raising awareness with employers and providing information about help available to their employees should they be victims of domestic violence.

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The Partnership is also playing a significant role in promoting a positive image of Darlington:

- The Best of Darlington Awards goes from strength to strength. This year we have received over 160 nominations from the public, the largest number ever, testimony to the esteem it is held in within the community.
- The second Festival of Ingenuity was held in September. The event, which celebrates Darlington's ingenious heritage and present, had more businesses participating than the year before and attracted thousands more visitors. It has established itself as a major event in Darlington's cultural calendar and is set to play an important role in Darlington's bid for City of Culture.

In recognition of the tight financial climate we have trimmed the Partnership's budget as far as possible to an annual cost of £90,000. We also managed to secure over £70,000 in sponsorship for the activities we delivered.

In conclusion, we hope you would agree that there is a need for us to work together now more than ever. We need your voice at the table as we make plans to ensure Darlington continues to thrive.

Yours sincerely



Alasdair MacConachie
Chairman, One Darlington Partnership



Ada Burns
Chief Executive Darlington Borough Council