



# DARLINGTON ECONOMY

The best  
performing economy  
in the north-east



# BACKGROUND

**Ingenuity is at the heart of Darlington's success as a place where remarkable things happen.**

Darlington has a rich tradition of technological and entrepreneurial innovation - from its lead role in the birth of the railways, its globally renowned reputation for bridge building and structural engineering through to the development of cutting edge new industries specialising in subsea technology, advanced manufacturing and new biopharmaceutical medicines.

Darlington is a key economic asset within the North East of England, with a sphere of influence that reaches into Tees Valley, the wider North East region and beyond.

Sectoral strengths include the business and professional service sector; manufacturing, advanced engineering and construction; with emerging strengths in digital and media, subsea, telehealth and telecare. Darlington is a leading player in the manufacturing of biopharmaceuticals, with the National Biologics Manufacturing Centre opening in the town in 2015.

Darlington has an entrepreneurial, innovative, diverse and resilient economy that provides employment opportunities across a wide range of sectors.

# RECENT RECOGNITION

We're pleased to have been recognised by a number of independent reports:

- **BEST PERFORMING ECONOMY IN THE NORTH-EAST** – In two separate independent reports, Darlington was announced as the best performing economy in north-east –
  - By 'RBS' - for 3 quarters running, through 2014 and 2015; and Darlington's economic growth was also better than all UK regional average figures outside of London
  - By the 'ONS' – Darlington had the best GVA growth in the north east in 2014; and something we're really proud of - the 5th highest % growth nationally. The 4 above us are all London boroughs.
- **ONE OF THE BEST PLACES TO LIVE IN THE UK** – Two separate independent reports ranked Darlington as the 7th best place to live in the UK
- In a recent study by 'Venuescore', Darlington was ranked in the top 3% of UK shopping venues



# KEY FACTS

## POPULATION

- Darlington's population is 105,400; of which 65,100 are of a working age (16-64)
- 77.5% of Darlington's population are economically active (in employment or unemployed)
- 58% of economically active residents work in Darlington and 21% commute out

## ECONOMY

Darlington contributed £2.5bn to the Tees Valley Economy in 2014, and is part of the wider Tees Valley economy valued at £12.3bn.

## EMPLOYMENT

- Darlington has a high calibre workforce with a higher percentage of the working age population educated to degree level than the average for the north east as a whole
- The employment rate in Darlington, currently at 72.2%, outperforms all other areas within the Tees Valley
- Darlington's workplace based earnings average £518 per week, the highest full time salary in the north east
- In terms of employment concentrations, Darlington has comparative advantage against National and Tees Valley averages in a number of sectors, such as, Manufacturing and Engineering, Specialised Construction, Logistics and Financial Service Activities

## BUSINESS BASE

Darlington's business base is characterised by a smaller number of large businesses (those with more than 1,000 employees) and a relatively large number of smaller businesses.

Darlington currently has approximately 4,805 businesses including sole traders, which is broken down as follows:

- 84.5% - micro businesses employing less than 9 people
- 12% - small businesses (10-49 employees)
- 4% - medium or large businesses (49+ employees)

## HOUSING

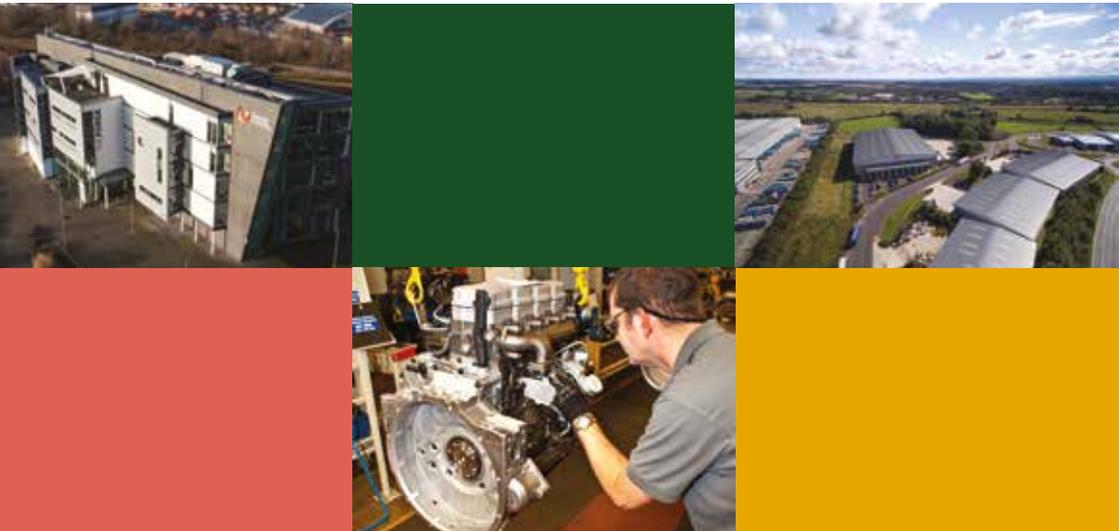
- Darlington boasts some of the best urban housing in the country, with high-quality Victorian town houses, residential apartments and detached and semi-detached housing within easy walking distance of the town centre
- In addition to urban housing, Darlington has many charming rural villages set amidst glorious countryside
- The average house price in Darlington is £120,000
- 10,000 homes are planned to be built over the period up to 2036



## RECENT AND PLANNED DEVELOPMENT

Over £500 million of public and private sector investment has been attracted into Darlington over the last 5 years. Development which has recently taken place or is planned includes:

- £38M *National Biologics Manufacturing Centre*, opened 2015
- £20M *Biologics Factory for the Future* – scheduled for 2017/18
- £30M *Feethams Darlington* – multiplex cinema, hotel and leisure complex, opened Spring 2016
- £6.6M *Business Central* hub opened at Central Park in 2015
- £13M *Teesside University Darlington campus, The Forge* opened in 2012
- £220M further investment in 1,200 new homes at *West Park* to start in 2017
- £24M investment in housing at *Burdon Hill*



## FIND OUT MORE & STAY IN TOUCH

For more information on Darlington's growing economy please contact the Business team at [business.support@darlington.gov.uk](mailto:business.support@darlington.gov.uk)

### WEB

[www.investindarlington.co.uk](http://www.investindarlington.co.uk)

[www.darlington.gov.uk/business](http://www.darlington.gov.uk/business)

### SOCIAL MEDIA

 [www.twitter.com/DtonEconomy](https://twitter.com/DtonEconomy)

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