Bishop Auckland Town Council

Kingsway Court, 54 Kingsway, Bishop Auckland, Co. Durham DL14 7JF

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Town Clerk: Sarah Harris

02 December 2025

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on 26 November 2025. Bishop Auckland Town Council is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and will respond to each of your questions below based on the information we hold.

1. Has any individual, group, company, charity etc. approached Bishop Auckland Town Council or any other authority in regard to the ownership or running of Bishop Auckland Town Hall.

The Town Council does not own or manage Bishop Auckland Town Hall. It is owned and operated by Durham County Council. We hold no recorded information on approaches regarding ownership or running of the building. Please contact Durham County Council for this information.

2. Has Bishop Auckland Town Hall ever been offered for administration, managed etc. to any individuals, companies, charities etc. by Bishop Auckland Town Council or who ever is responsible for said building.

As above, the Town Council has no responsibility for the building and holds no recorded information.

3. Has a Pepper Corn rent ever been discussed regarding the running, ownership or lease of Bishop Auckland Town Hall.

As above, no recorded information held by the Town Council, as no discussion has been had with Bishop Auckland Town Council, regarding the running, ownership or lease of Bishop Auckland Town Hall.

4. Regarding the current demolition taking place in Bishop Auckland Market Place to enable the building of a new hotel, who is/are responsible and liable for any damages to the Bishop Auckland Town Hall, be the damages structural or financial (loss of revenue to do closure etc).

The Town Council is not the contracting authority for demolition works and holds no recorded information on liability. This is a matter for Durham County Council and/or the developer.

5. Has there been any applications to restrict traffic in to the Bishop Auckland Market Place including for taxis.

The Town Council has not submitted any applications. Traffic regulation orders are managed by Durham County Council.

6. What role did the Town Council play regarding the disposal of the North Bondgate car par by the DCC lease to the predecessor of the Auckland Project.

The Town Council has no statutory role in property disposals or funding decisions made by Durham County Council or The Auckland Project. We hold no recorded information on these matters.

7. What role did the Town Council play regarding the surrender of a lease for the Auckland Castle Parklands and tourism deal agreed offered by the DCC to the predecessor of the Auckland Project.

The Town Council has no statutory role in property disposals or funding decisions made by Durham County Council or The Auckland Project. We hold no recorded information on these matters.

8. What role did the Town Council play in the spend of HM Gov grant funding of £3.8million in favour of the DCC for its site at 9-11 Newgate Street now known as the Stack.

The Town Council had a seat at the Brighter Bishop Board, who were responsible for recommending allocations of the Future High Street Fund this Board no longer meets. The Local Accountable body for the fund is Durham County Council.

9. What role did the Town Council play in the request from the DCC to the North-East Mayor for additional funding of £2.0million in favour of the DCC for its site at 9-11 Newgate Street now known as the Stack.

The Town Council has no statutory role this funding decisions made by Durham County Council and holds no recorded information on these matters.

10. What role did the Town Council play in the offer from the DCC to provide Auckland Project with a grant for the demolition and construction of a new hotel in the former market place area.

The Town Council had a seat at the Stronger Towns Board, , who were responsible for recommending allocations of the Stronger Towns Fund. The Local Accountable body for the fund is Durham County Council.

11. Is the funding for the grant part of the proposed £28million Subsidy, and is the amount £3million plus.

You will need to contact Durham County Council as the fund administrator for the grant.

12. What role did the Town Council play in the offer from the DCC to provide Auckland Project with funding for the Artist Hub.

The Town Council had a seat at the Stronger Towns Board, who were responsible for recommending allocations of the Future High Street Fund to the local accountable body Durham County Counci.l

13. How much funding has the Town Council received to cover the costs of non-economic cultural/heritage events – below £500,00 or exceeding £500,000.

The Town Council have received less than £500,000 since 2010, to cover costs of non-economic cultural/ heritage events. The Council's own event expenditure is funded primarily through the annual precept.

14. What role did the Town Council play in the purchase of the Newgate Centre.

The Town Council has no statutory role in property disposals or funding decisions made by Durham County Council or The Auckland Project. We hold no recorded information on these matters.

15. What effort has the Town Council made to ensure the Newgate Centre has fully operational lifts for all specifically those with a disability and the need for access to sanitary facilities on the first floor, such as parents with push chairs or users of the Greggs outlet.

The Town Council has no statutory role in property decisions made by Durham County Council or The Auckland Project. We hold no recorded information on these matters.

16. What effort has the Town Council played regarding DBS checks for all at Auckland Project including volunteer who have access to children.

The Town Council does not manage volunteers for The Auckland Project or Kynren and holds no recorded information on their DBS checks or security compliance.

17. What is the role between the Town Council and Reform Ward Cllr Lyndsey Fox regarding the Newgate Centre.

None, you will need to contact Durham County Council as they are the Newgate Centre owner.

18. What checks do Bishop Auckland Town Council undertake to ensure Martyn's Law is correctly adhered/applied to Kynren and The Auckland Project volunteers.

The Town Council does not manage volunteers for The Auckland Project or Kynren and holds no recorded information on their DBS checks or security compliance.

19. What checks do Bishop Auckland Town Council undertake to ensure all the volunteers at Kynren and The Auckland Project are DBS checked.

The Town Council does not manage volunteers for The Auckland Project or Kynren and holds no recorded information on their DBS checks or security compliance.

20. Are Bishop Auckland Town Council involved in monitoring the suppliers of the new hotel in the Bishop Auckland Market Place ensuring local builders are employed and British materials are used, for example where is the steel sourced from for the building construction.

The Town Council is not involved in procurement for the hotel development and holds no recorded information.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Harris
Town Clerk