



Bishop Auckland Town Council

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

Tel: 01388 207110 **Email:** council@bishopauckland-tc.gov.uk

Web: www.bishopauckland-tc.gov.uk

Town Clerk: Sarah Harris

Dear Sir/Madam

14th July 2026

Re: FOI - Tourism & Bishop Auckland Town of Culture

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (FOI) Request. The Council will provide recorded information held within its records. Where information requested relates to future estimates, projections or information not held in a recorded form, the Council will advise accordingly under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Town of Culture Application

- **Hours spent on the Town of Culture bid so far**

The Council has not recorded staff time spent against this project and therefore does not hold the information requested. The Council can confirm that officers attended two forum meetings and a number of working group meetings associated with the Expression of Interest.

- **Anticipated hours still needed**

As the Council has not been shortlisted to move forward to the bidding stage of the Town of Culture 2028 the Council does not hold recorded information regarding anticipated future hours.

- **Approximate hourly rate (cost to Council) of staff**

The Council does not hold recorded information showing an hourly cost for officers involved in this work. The work formed part of the Town Clerk's normal duties and was undertaken during contracted working hours. Information regarding the Town Clerk's salary band is publicly available within the Council's published minutes should the requester wish to make their own assessment of employment costs.

- **Funds required to staff successful delivery by the current team**

As the Council has not been shortlisted beyond the Expression of Interest stage, it does not hold recorded information regarding staffing resources or funds required to deliver a successful bid.

Visitor Economy Promotion

- **Cost of tourism website build, annual costs to run/maintain, approximate staff time to run/maintain and approximate hourly rate (cost to Council) of staff and Annual Tourism Marketing Budget**

The Council does not operate a tourism website. Accordingly, the Council does not hold information relating to website build costs, maintenance costs, staff resources required to maintain such a website, or associated staffing costs. The Council does not hold a separate tourism marketing budget.

Partner Organisations

The Council does not hold detailed information regarding resources contributed by partner organisations. Requests for such information should be directed to the relevant organisations.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you may request an internal review by writing to Bishop Auckland Town Council. If, following the internal review, you remain dissatisfied, you have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) at www.ico.org.uk

Kindest regards

Sarah Harris
Town Clerk

Good Afternoon,

14th July 2026

FOI - Tourism & Bishop Auckland Town of Culture

Firstly I want to say how I know how much work goes into submitting a bid and I'm sorry to hear your Town of Culture bid wasn't shortlisted.

Please find below a FOI request to find out the following

Town of Culture Application

- Hours spent* on the Town of Culture bid, so far:
- Anticipated hours still needed (prior to any further success):
- Approximate hourly rate (cost to Council) of staff who have/are working on this:
- Funds required to staff the successful delivery by the current team:

Visitor Economy Promotion

- Cost of tourism website(s) build:
- Annual costs to run/maintain:
- Approximate staff time to run/maintain:
- Approximate hourly rate (cost to Council) of staff who look after this:
- Annual Tourism Marketing Budget:

* I realise lots of work may have been done with partner organisations. Whilst they're not required to respond I'd really be interested in the time they've also contributed, if they're willing to share.

Many thanks,
(Redacted – First Name)