



Bishop Auckland Town Council

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

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Mayor: Michael Siddle **Town Clerk:** Sarah Harris

17 August 2026

Dear sir

Freedom of Information Request – 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.

In response to your request please see the answers, as follows:

1. Please can you provide a copy of your town's Stage 1 Expression of Interest entry for the DCMS UK Town of Culture 2028 competition.

A copy of the Stage 1 Expression of Interest is attached. Personal data has been redacted in accordance with Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

This is also now available on our website. <https://bishopauckland-tc.gov.uk/town-of-culture-2028/>

2. If it is not otherwise stated within your Stage 1 Expression of Interest, please can you confirm which organisations were your proposed Delivery Body and Accountable Body for your entry.

Accountable Body: Bishop Auckland Town Council.

Proposed Delivery Body: A partnership working group/ToC Board comprising the town council and a range of cultural partners.

3. Please can you provide any information or decision papers concerning your Stage 1 Expression of Interest that were tabled for the consideration of your Council members.

The Council does not hold any separate reports or decision papers relating to the Stage 1 Expression of Interest which were formally tabled for consideration by Council members.

Minutes of Council and Committee meetings are publicly available at: <https://bishopauckland-tc.gov.uk/council/agendas-and-minutes/>

4. Please can you confirm if your Stage 1 Expression of Interest campaign included a) surveys open to the public, b) one or more in person public meetings, and c) one or more online public meetings.

Activity	Response
Public survey	Yes
In-person public meetings	Yes (two stakeholder forums)
Online public meetings	None undertaken as part of the Expression of Interest process

5. Please can you confirm the amount of money that was directly spent by your Council on your Town of Culture 2028 entry and associated campaign.

*The Council's direct expenditure associated with the Expression of Interest and related campaign activities was **£18.14**, relating to Mailchimp usage.*

The Council is not aware of any other direct expenditure. Support from partner organisations was provided in-kind.

6. Please confirm the estimated total amount of in-kind time spent by officers, employees and members of your Council in completing your Stage 1 Expression of Interest and associated campaign activities (e.g., attending meetings).

The Council has not recorded staff or member time against this project and therefore does not hold the information requested.

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, public authorities are required to provide recorded information that they hold but are not required to create new information in response to a request.

For information only, the Council can confirm that:

- One officer and four elected members attended two stakeholder forum meetings.*
- One officer and one elected member attended seven working group meetings associated with the preparation of the Expression of Interest.*