

## 61259 Discretionary Expenditure and Hospitality Costs

This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I would like to request the following information for the most recent full financial year available:

The three highest individual areas of expenditure that the council classifies as discretionary or non-statutory (i.e. services or spending not required by law), ranked by total annual spend.

For each of these three areas, please provide:

The name or description of the service/project

The total amount spent in that financial year

A brief description of what the expenditure relates to

Whilst relevant legislation sets out a range of powers and duties, no definitive and accepted list of statutory and non-statutory services exists. In addition, the extent and nature of statutory provision is, in many cases, not formally prescribed. As a result, it is not possible to analyse the council's budget in the format requested.

Please provide the total amount spent by the council on alcohol, including:

Alcohol purchased for events, functions, or hospitality

Alcohol purchased using council funds, expenses, or procurement systems

If possible, please also provide a breakdown of this figure by category (e.g. events, civic hospitality, staff functions).

The 2025/26 spend on alcohol was £321,977. The majority of this relates to the purchase of stock for re-sale at Council-operated cultural venues, with a small amount being for hospitality events held at City Chambers, etc. We are unable to provide a list of events or the cost of alcohol per event.