Lottery investment in Auckland Castle to spark



Auckland Castle, palace of the Prince Bishops of Durham Sean Elliott Photography

Auckland Castle has been a seat of power since the days of the Norman Conquest in the 11th Century. Home to 900 years of the Prince Bishops of Durham, they enjoyed incredible power laid down on them by subsequent monarchs who needed a strong ally to protect the England from the Scottish.

Today Auckland Castle is one of the UK's most important historic buildings. And thanks to Lottery players, it is now set to be transformed into a world-class arts and cultural centre that will act as a major catalyst for the regeneration of Bishop Auckland creating up to 130 local jobs.

Chris Mullin, Chairman of HLF North East, said: "This project clearly demonstrates how by investing in heritage, the National Lottery can have a direct impact on the economic health of our local communities. Thanks to Lottery players, this investment in Auckland Castle will not only restore this nationally important part of our heritage, it will help regenerate the local economy of Bishop Auckland, which has suffered more than most from the decline of traditional industries."

Along with renovating the centuries-old castle's state rooms this project will incorporate a two-storey museum extension housing a new immersive experience exploring the history of faith in the British Isles. Among the remarkable and powerful items that will be on display will be the Cottingham Tank, a Viking lead font that is a fusion of Pagan and Christian beliefs.

Find out more about the transformation of Auckland Castle, visit the Auckland Castle website.



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Auckland Castle secures £9m Heritage Lottery Fund backing