



A North Yorkshire Council event



CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Contract title	Scarborough Lights 2026
Type of supply	Light installations, light art or light-based activities to be part of the Scarborough Lights Festival (Nov/Dec 2026)

CLOSING DATE: 9am, Monday 17th August 2026

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION AND GUIDANCE

General

"The Scarborough Fair" is a North Yorkshire Council project, with additional funding from Pride in Place, or anyone acting on behalf of The Scarborough Fair, that is seeking to invite suitable suppliers to participate in this call for proposals.

"You"/ "Your" or "Supplier" means the body responding to this Call for Proposals i.e., the legal entity responsible for the information provided. The 'Supplier' is intended to cover any economic operator as defined by the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 as amended and could be a registered company; charitable organisation; Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE); Special Purpose Vehicle; Individual, or other form of entity.

Scope of requirements

The Scarborough Fair wishes to award contracts to produce light installations and light-based activities to support Tourism and Cultural promotion for Scarborough and garner a sense of place to make residents proud of the area in which they live. **Scarborough Lights** takes place across the town centre from **11 November – 20 December 2026**, but we expect there to also be some community workshops and activities for residents in the weeks leading up to the event itself.

This is the fourth 'Scarborough Lights' project in the overall The Scarborough Fair festival, as The Scarborough Fair looks forward to supporting economic growth in the visitor economy sector and create a body of cultural significance across Scarborough. We expect the delivery of Scarborough Lights to have some elements from 2023, 2024, and 2025, but also some very different ideas and installations, in other areas of the town.

Further information is contained within **Section 2: The Specification**.

Timetable

The draft timetable below outlines the estimated duration of the procurement process. Suppliers should note this is for indicative purposes only and The Scarborough Fair is not bound by these timescales.

Date	Activity
Thursday 30 th July 2026	Calls for Proposals made available to suppliers
9am, Monday 17 th August 2026	Final date for Proposal submissions
Tuesday 1 st September 2026	Contract awards and commencement of contract

SECTION 2: SPECIFICATION

Introduction

The **Scarborough Fair** is seeking to commission light art installations and light-based activities for Scarborough Lights, to promote the cultural product of Scarborough and brighten up the town in the winter months, pre-Christmas. This is part of a wider work plan to come together to promote tourism and local enjoyment for Scarborough during The Scarborough Fair, which has already seen Scarborough Streets, Scarborough Art, Scarborough Fringe and Scarborough Extreme in 2026.

Background

Scarborough Lights is the next event under the banner of the new Scarborough Fair, taking place between **11 November – 20 December 2026** at various locations in the centre of Scarborough.

It will be an inclusive light festival, taking place in the pre-Christmas period, but not necessarily Christmas-themed, featuring a variety of free and affordable light shows, light installations and community activities. The aim is to inspire, celebrate and showcase local creativity. It will also feature national and international artists, too.

We are looking for a variety of artists, creatives and community groups to be part of the festival, creating new or existing work and developing networks and activities within the town.

Project Brief

The theme and content of installations are up to the Supplier to propose and can be subject to further discussion with The Scarborough Fair once the Proposal has been submitted. We also welcome interactive digital/AR work. All installations are intended for public view during November and December 2026.

Project Area	Budget range (per installation, including materials)
<u>INDOOR Light Installations</u> We are looking for proposals for both large and small light installations, which we intend to place within churches and other buildings across Scarborough. In your proposal, you can also state locations for which you think it could be suitable. Light artworks can be physical constructions or projected work. If	£1,000-£5,000

projected, the cost must also include that of the projector. If projection is used, it should take into account the unique nature of the architecture of the location used, and not simply onto a screen.	
<u>OUTDOOR Light Installations</u> We are looking for light artworks of all kinds and are open to suggestions as to the locations for these. We are interested in higher footfall locations or places that can easily be reached or are visible over a wide area. It is important that artworks are suitable for all weather conditions and are completely out of reach of the general public. We will cover the costs of installing, maintaining and removing artworks.	£1,000-£5,000 per installation
<u>Projection Mapping</u> We are seeking light art professionals to create projection mapping installations for any of the following: the Rotunda Museum, Scarborough Art Gallery, Woodend Gallery, The Grand Hotel and Scarborough Market Hall. At this stage, we are looking for experienced light artists who are able to create the works. If we are considering your proposal, we will invite you for a site visit to work it out further with our partners. You need to consider how and where the projector(s) will be installed, bearing in mind the weather conditions and the need for them to be kept out of reach of the general public from a security perspective. Ideally these works will be visible for the duration of Scarborough Lights, but in some cases we may have to run them for a shorter period of time.	£5,000-£8,000 per building
<u>"OPEN" Category</u> This is an opportunity for you to propose works that do not necessarily fit into any of the above categories. We are keen to hear ideas and will look to see where they may be able to fit into the programme. Please note that the location of any artwork, display, activity or installation must be within Scarborough.	£1,000-£5,000

Notes regarding Project Brief submissions:

- Open to local, national and international artists
- The Proposal from the Supplier should also include a proposed fee for the work (excluding VAT) and a detailed breakdown, including equipment, materials and security, if required.
- Links to, and involvement with, local community groups, charities, schools and colleges are encouraged

- The Scarborough Fair will provide logistics and other permissions for the installations, as part of the overall festival, subject to discussion with the Supplier
- Any assets created within this commission will be solely owned by The Scarborough Fair, for their sole use to promote Scarborough, unless otherwise agreed in writing.

Outputs

- Attracting increased visitor numbers to Scarborough Town Centre
- Improved perception of Scarborough and its cultural offering
- An all-inclusive access installation which can be enjoyed by everyone.

Next Steps

Please provide a Proposal for your project including:

- Theme and detail of the activity proposed
- Timeline of all activities and key dates (including set-up and de-rig, where required)
- Equipment and personnel required
- Previous experience in delivering events of this kind, including specific examples and outcomes
- Full breakdown of costs.

In your Proposal, please state clearly which project brief you are applying to.

Please email your proposal to info@scarboroughfair.uk by 9am, Monday 17th August 2026.

Client Contacts

Day-to-day project contact: Catherine Goble and Rachel Wilkinson (The Scarborough Fair).