

Model Publication Scheme

Freedom of Information Act

This model publication scheme has been prepared and approved by the Information Commissioner

This publication scheme commits an authority to make information available to the public as part of its normal business activities. The information covered is included in the classes of information mentioned below, where this information is held by the authority. Additional assistance is provided to the definition of these classes in sector specific guidance manuals issued by the Information Commissioner.

The scheme commits an authority:

- To proactively publish or otherwise make available as a matter of routine, information, including environmental information, which is held by the authority and falls within the classifications below.
- To specify the information which is held by the authority and falls within the classifications below.
- To proactively publish or otherwise make available as a matter of routine, information in line with the statements contained within this scheme.
- To produce and publish the methods by which the specific information is made routinely available so that it can be easily identified and accessed by members of the public.
- To review and update on a regular basis the information the authority makes available under this scheme.
- To produce a schedule of any fees charged for access to information which is made proactively available.
- To make this publication scheme available to the public.
- To publish any dataset held by the authority that has been requested, and any updated versions it holds, unless the authority is satisfied that it is not appropriate to do so; to publish the dataset, where reasonably practicable, in an electronic form that is capable of re-use; and, if any information in the dataset is a relevant copyright work and the public authority is the only owner, to make the information available re-use under the terms of the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2015, if they apply, and otherwise under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act section 19.

The term 'dataset' is defined in section 11(5) of the Freedom of Information Act. The term 'relevant copyright work' is defined in section 19(8) of that Act.

Classes of information

Who we are and what we do.

Organisational information, locations and contacts, constitutional and legal governance.

What we spend and how we spend it.

Financial information relating to projected and actual income and expenditure, tendering, procurement and contracts.

What our priorities are and how we are doing.

Strategy and performance information, plans, assessments, inspections and reviews.

How we make decisions.

Policy proposals and decisions. Decision making processes, internal criteria and procedures, consultations.

Our policies and procedures.

Current written protocols for delivering our functions and responsibilities.

Lists and registers.

Information held in registers required by law and other lists and registers relating to the functions of the authority.

The services we offer.

Advice and guidance, booklets and leaflets, transactions and media releases. A description of the services offered.

The classes of information will not generally include:

- Information the disclosure of which is prevented by law, or exempt under the Freedom of Information Act, or is otherwise properly considered to be protected from disclosure.
- Information in draft form.
- Information that is no longer readily available as it is contained in files that have been placed in archive storage, or is difficult to access for similar reasons.

The method by which information published under this scheme will be made available

The authority will indicate clearly to the public what information is covered by this scheme and how it can be obtained.

Where it is within the capability of a public authority, information will be provided on a website. Where it is impracticable to make information available on a website or when an individual does not wish to access the information by the website, a public authority will indicate how information can be obtained by other means and provide it by those means.

In exceptional circumstances some information may be available only by viewing in person. Where this manner is specified, contact details will be provided. An appointment to view the information will be arranged within a reasonable timescale.

Information will be provided in the language in which it is held or in such other language that is legally required. Where an authority is legally required to translate any information, it will do so.

Obligations under disability and discrimination legislation and any other legislation to provide information in other forms and formats will be adhered to when providing information in accordance with this scheme.

Charges which may be made for information published under this scheme

The purpose of this scheme is to make the maximum amount of information readily available at

minimum inconvenience and cost to the public. Charges made by the authority for routinely published material will be justified and transparent and kept to a minimum.

Material which is published and accessed on a website will be provided free of charge.

Charges may be made for information subject to a charging regime specified by Parliament.

Charges may be made for actual disbursements incurred such as:

- photocopying
- postage and packaging
- the costs directly incurred as a result of viewing information

Charges may also be made for information provided under this scheme where they are legally authorised, they are in all the circumstances, including the general principles of the right of access to information held by public authorities, justified and are in accordance with a published schedule or schedules of fees which is readily available to the public.

Charges may also be made for making datasets (or parts of datasets) that are relevant copyright works available for re-use. These charges will be in accordance with the terms of the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2015, where they apply, or with regulations made under section 11B of the Freedom of Information Act, or with other statutory powers of the public authority.

If a charge is to be made, confirmation of the payment due will be given before the information is provided. Payment may be requested prior to provision of the information.

Written requests

Information held by a public authority that is not published under this scheme can be requested in writing, to Bishop Auckland Town Council, Kingsway Court, 54 Kingsway, Bishop Auckland, DL14 7JF, when its provision will be considered in accordance with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act.

Publication Scheme

Information available from Bishop Auckland Town Council under the Model Publication Scheme

Information to be published	How the information can be obtained	Cost
Class1 - Who we are and what we do		
Organisational information, structures, locations and contacts. Current information only		
Who's who on the Council and its Committees	Website Hard copy (contact Town Clerk) www.bishopauckland-tc.gov.uk	Free
Contact details for Parish Clerk and Council members (named contacts where possible with telephone number and email address (if used))		
Location of main Council office and accessibility details		
Staffing structure		
Class 2 – What we spend and how we spend it		
Financial information relating to projected and actual income and expenditure, procurement, contracts and financial audit. Current and previous financial year as a minimum		
Annual return form and report by auditor	Website Hard copy (contact Town Clerk)	Free
Finalised budget		
Precept		
Borrowing Approval letter	n/a	
Financial Standing Orders and Regulations	Website Hard copy (contact Town Clerk)	Free
Grants given and received		
List of current contracts awarded and value of contract		
Members' allowances and expenses		
Class 3 – What our priorities are and how we are doing		
Strategies and plans, performance indicators, audits, inspections and reviews		
Parish Plan (current and previous year as a minimum)	n/a	
Annual Report to Parish or Community Meeting (current and previous year as a minimum)	Website Hard copy (contact Town Clerk)	Free
Quality status	n/a	
Local charters drawn up in accordance with DCLG guidelines	n/a	
Class 4 – How we make decisions		
Decision making processes and records of decisions Current and previous council year as a minimum		
Timetable of meetings (Council, any committee/sub-committee meetings and parish meetings)	Website Hard copy (contact Town Clerk)	Free
Agendas of meetings (as above)		
Minutes of meetings (as above) – N.B. this will exclude information that is properly regarded as private to the meeting.		
Reports presented to council meetings – N.B. this will exclude information that is properly regarded as private to the meeting.		
Responses to consultation papers		
Responses to planning applications		
Bye-laws	n/a	

Information to be published	How the information can be obtained	Cost
Class 5 – Our policies and procedures Current written protocols, policies and procedures for delivering our services and responsibilities Current information only		
Policies and procedures for the conduct of council business: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procedural standing orders • Committee and sub-committee terms of reference • Delegated authority in respect of officers • Code of Conduct • Policy statements 	Website Hard copy (contact Town Clerk)	Free
Policies and procedures for the provision of services and about the employment of staff: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal policies relating to the delivery of services • Equality and diversity policy • Health and safety policy • Recruitment policies (including current vacancies) • Policies and procedures for handling requests for information • Complaints procedures (including those covering requests for information and operating the publication scheme) 		
Information security policy		
Records management policies (records retention, destruction and archive)		
Data protection policies		
Schedule of charges (for the publication of information)		
Class 6 – Lists and Registers Currently maintained lists and registers only		
Any publicly available register or list (if any are held this should be publicised; in most circumstances existing access provisions will suffice)	Website Hard copy (contact Town Clerk)	Free
Assets Register		
Disclosure log (indicating the information that has been provided in response to requests; recommended as good practice, but may not be held by parish councils)		
Register of members’ interests		
Register of gifts and hospitality		
Class 7 – The services we offer Information about the services we offer, including leaflets, guidance and newsletters produced for the public and businesses Current information only		
Allotments	Website Hard copy (contact Town Clerk)	Free
Burial grounds and closed churchyards	n/a	
Community centres and village halls	n/a	
Parks, playing fields and recreational facilities	n/a	
Seating, litter bins, clocks, memorials and lighting	n/a	
Bus shelters	n/a	

Markets	n/a	
Information to be published	How the information can be obtained	Cost
Class 7 – The services we offer (continued)		
Public conveniences	n/a	
Agency agreements	n/a	
A summary of services for which the council is entitled to recover a fee, together with those fees (e.g. burial fees)	n/a	
Additional Information		
Further information not itemised in the lists above will be included as and when identified.		

Contact details: Town Clerk
 Bishop Auckland Town Council
 54 Kingsway
 Bishop Auckland
 DL14 7JF

Tel: 01388 207 110
 Email: council@bishopauckland-tc.gov.uk

SCHEDULE OF CHARGES

This describes how the charges have been arrived at and should be published as part of the guide.

N.B. The Council will provide the information listed above free of charge. However it reserves the right to change this policy should the number of requests make it prohibitive to do so.

TYPE OF CHARGE	DESCRIPTION	BASIS OF CHARGE
Disbursement cost	Photocopying @ ..p per sheet (black & white)	Free of charge
	Photocopying @ ..p per sheet (colour)	Free of charge
	Postage	Actual cost of Royal Mail standard 2 nd class
Statutory Fee		In accordance with the relevant legislation (quote the actual statute)