

 <p><b>Buckingham Town Council</b></p> <p><b>Freedom of Information Act</b></p> <p><b>Publication Scheme</b></p>	<p><b>Date last reviewed/amended:</b> <b>May 2024</b></p> <p><b>Minute Number: 14/24.2</b></p>
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## **Introduction**

### **The Council's Commitment to the Act**

Buckingham Town Council believes in maintaining the transparency of the Council and strives to maintain an open approach to its business.

The Council is committed to openness and accountability and currently makes large amounts of information available to the public through the website, via the telephone, email and by post. Should a personal visit to view information be required, an appointment will be necessary.

### **The Freedom of Information Act 2000**

The Freedom of Information Act grants to members of the public rights of access to all kinds of recorded information held by a wide range of public authorities. Information about the Act is available from the Information Commissioners Officers at [Information Commissioner's Office \(ICO\)](#)

### **Publication Scheme**

The Act requires every public authority to adopt and maintain a generic model publication scheme which should be adopted and operated by all public authorities from 1 January 2009. Buckingham Town Council adopted the generic model scheme on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2012. This policy is designed to provide everyone with a comprehensive guide to the information that the Council will automatically or routinely publish or otherwise make available to the public.

### **Freedom of Information Requests and the Publications Scheme**

The purpose of this publication scheme is to set out the information that is routinely available. Information that is not listed in the Information Available Guide of this document can still be requested and will be made available unless there is a reason for it to be legitimately withheld. Application for any information not included in the guide below can be made by making a written request to the Town Clerk who will reply within 20 working days after receipt of the request.

### **Model Publication Scheme**

This Model Publication Scheme has been prepared and approved by the Information Commissioner. It may be adopted by any public authority without further approval and will be valid until further notice.

This publication 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:

1. 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;
2. To specify the information which is held by the authority and falls within the classifications below;
3. To proactively publish or otherwise make available as a matter of routine, information in line with statements contained within this scheme;
4. 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;
5. To review and update on a regular basis the information the authority makes available under this scheme.
6. To provide a schedule of any fees charged for access to information which is made proactively available;
7. To make this publication scheme available to the public.

### **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, inspections, and reviews.

- **How we make decisions.**

Policy proposals and decisions. Decision making processes, internal criteria and procedure, 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 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.**

1. The authority will indicate clearly to the public what information is covered by this scheme and how it can be obtained.
2. Where it is within the capability of a public authority, information will be provided on a website. Where it is impractical 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.
3. 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.
4. Information will be provided in the language in which it is held or in such language that is legally required. Where an authority is legally required to translate any information, it will do so.
5. Obligations under disciplinary and discrimination 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 authorized, 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 of fees which is readily available to the public.

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, when its provision will be considered in accordance with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act

**Information available from Buckingham Town Council under the Model Publication Scheme.**

<b>Information to be Published</b>	<b>How the information can be obtained</b>	<b>Cost</b>
<b>Class 1 – Who we are and what we do</b> (Organisational information, structures, locations, and costs) Current information only.	Website Hard Copy	Free 20p per A4 Sheet
Who's who on the Council and it's Committees	Website Hard Copy	Free 20p per A4 Sheet
Contact details for Town Clerk and Council Members (named contacts where possible with telephone number and email address (if used))	Website Hard Copy	Free 20p per A4 Sheet
Location of Main Council office and accessibility details	Website Hard Copy	Free 20p per A4 Sheet
Staffing Structure	Hard Copy	20p per A4 Sheet
<b>Class 1 – What we spend and how we spend it</b> (Financial information relating to projected and actual income and expenditure, procurement, contracts, and financial audit) Current and previous financial year as a minimum	Hard Copy	20p per A4 Sheet
Annual return and report by Auditor	Hard Copy	20p per A4 Sheet
Finalised Budget	Hard Copy	20p per A4 Sheet
Precept	Hard Copy	20p per A4 Sheet
Borrowing Approval letter (if available)	Hard Copy	20p per A4 Sheet
Financial Standing Orders and Regulations	Hard Copy	20p per A4 Sheet
Grants given and received	Hard Copy	20p per A4 Sheet
List of current contracts awarded and value of contract	Hard Copy	20p per A4 Sheet
Members' allowances and expenses	Website Hard Copy	Free 20p per A4 Sheet
<b>Class 3 – What our priorities are and how we are doing</b> (Strategies and plans, performance indicators, audits, inspections, and reviews)	Hard Copy	20p per A4 Sheet
Buckingham Plan (current and previous year as a minimum)	Hard Copy	20p per A4 Sheet
Annual report to Parish or Community Meeting (current and previous year as a minimum)	Hard Copy	20p per A4 Sheet
Quality Status	Hard Copy	20p per A4 Sheet
Local Charters drawn up in accordance with DLUHC guidelines	Hard Copy	20p per A4 Sheet
<b>Class 4 – How we make decisions</b> (Decision making process and records of decisions) Current and previous Council year as a minimum	Website Hard Copy	Free 20p per A4 Sheet
Timetable of meetings (Council, and Committee, Sub Committee, Working Group meetings and Town	Website Hard Copy	Free 20p per A4 Sheet

Meetings)		
Agendas of meetings (as above) – N.B. This will exclude information that is properly regarded as confidential and private to the meeting	Website Hard Copy	Free 20p per A4 Sheet
Minutes of meetings (as above) – N.B. This will exclude information that is properly regarded as confidential and private to the meeting	Website Hard Copy	Free 20p per A4 Sheet
Reports presented to Council meetings – N.B. This will exclude information that is properly regarded as confidential and private to the meeting	Hard Copy	20p per A4 Sheet
Responses to consultation papers	Hard Copy	20p per A4 Sheet
Byelaws	Hard Copy	20p per A4 Sheet
<b>Class 5 – Our policies and Procedures</b> Current recent Protocols, policies, and procedures for delivering our services and responsibilities) Current information only	Website Hard Copy	Free 20p per A4 Sheet
Policies and procedures for the conduct of Council business: Procedural Standing Orders ( <i>on website</i> ); Committee and Sub-Committee terms of Reference; Delegated authority in respect of officers; Code of Conduct ( <i>on website</i> ); Policy Statements	Website <i>where indicated</i> Hard Copy	Free 20p per A4 Sheet
Policies and procedures for the provision of services and about the employment of staff: Internal policies relating to the delivery of services; Equality and diversity policy; Health and Safety Policy Recruitment policies; Policies and Procedures; Complaints procedures (including those covering requests for information and operating the publication scheme)	Website Hard Copy	Free 20p per A4 Sheet
Information Security Policy	Hard Copy	20p per A4 Sheet
Records Management Policy (records retention, destruction, and archive)	Hard Copy	20p per A4 Sheet
Data Protection Policy	Website Hard Copy	Free 20p per A4 Sheet
<b>Class 6 – Lists and Registers</b> Currently maintained lists and registers only	Hard Copy Some information may only be available by Inspection	20p per A4 Sheet
Any publicly available register or list (if any are held, this should be publicised; in most circumstances existing provisions will suffice)	Hard Copy	20p per A4 Sheet
Assets Register	Hard Copy	20p per A4 Sheet
Disclosure log (indicating the information that has been provided to requests; recommended as good practice, but may not be held by Parish Councils)	Hard Copy	20p per A4 Sheet
Register of Members' interests	Hard Copy	20p per A4 Sheet
Register of gifts and hospitality	Hard Copy	20p per A4 Sheet
<b>Class 7 – the services we offer</b>	Hard Copy	20p per A4 Sheet

(Information about the services we offer, including leaflets, guidance and newsletters produced for the public and businesses) Current information only	Some information may only be available by inspection	
Allotments	Hard Copy	20p per A4 Sheet
Burial grounds and closed churchyards	Hard Copy	20p per A4 Sheet
Community Centres and Village Halls	Hard Copy	20p per A4 Sheet
Parks, playing fields and recreational facilities	Hard Copy	20p per A4 Sheet
Seating, litter bins, clocks, memorials, and lighting	Hard Copy	20p per A4 Sheet
Bus shelters	Hard Copy	20p per A4 Sheet
Markets	Hard Copy	20p per A4 Sheet
Public convenience	Hard Copy	20p per A4 Sheet
Agency agreements	Hard Copy	20p per A4 Sheet
A summary of services for which the Council is entitled to recover a fee; together with those fees (e.g., burial fees)	Hard Copy	20p per A4 Sheet
Other additional information	Upon request by Hard Copy if available	20p per A4 Sheet

**Contact details:**

Website address: [www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk](http://www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk)

Request for hard copies:

Mr Steve Beech  
Compliance and Projects  
Manager  
Buckingham Town Council  
The Buckingham Centre  
Verney Close  
Buckingham  
MK18 1JP

Email: [office@buckingham-tc.gov.uk](mailto:office@buckingham-tc.gov.uk)

Telephone: 01280 816426

**SCHEDULE OF CHARGES**

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

<b>TYPE OF CHARGE</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>BASIS OF CHARGE</b>
<b>Disbursement cost</b>	Photocopying @ 10p per sheet (black & white)	Actual cost *
	Photocopying @ 20p per sheet (colour)	Actual cost *
	Postage	Actual cost of Royal Mail standard 2 <sup>nd</sup> class

<b>Statutory Fee</b>		In accordance with the relevant legislation (quote the actual statute)
<b>Other</b>		

\* the actual cost incurred by the Town Council

## **DATA PROTECTION ACT 2018 POLICY**

This policy applies to:

- All employees of this Council;
- All regional staff or home workers operating on behalf of this Council.

This policy is operational from 25 May 2018.

The purpose of this policy is to enable the Council to:

- Comply with our legal, regulatory, and corporate governance obligations and good practice
- Gather information as part of investigations by regulatory bodies or in connection with legal proceedings or requests
- Ensure business policies are adhered to (such as policies covering email and internet use)
- Fulfil operational reasons, such as recording transactions, training, and quality control, ensuring the confidentiality of commercially sensitive information, security vetting, credit scoring and checking
- Investigate complaints
- Check references, ensuring safe working practices, monitoring, and managing staff access to systems and facilities and staff absences, administration, and assessments
- Monitor staff conduct, disciplinary matters
- Market our business
- Improve services

This policy applies to information relating to identifiable individuals e.g., staff, applicants, former staff, clients, suppliers, and other third-party contacts.

We will:

- Comply with both the law and good practice
- Respect individuals' rights
- Be open and honest with individuals whose data is held
- Provide training and support for staff who handle personal data, so that they can act confidently and consistently

We recognise that its first priority under the GDPR is to avoid causing harm to individuals. In the main this means:

- Complying with your rights,

- Keeping you informed about the data we hold, why we hold it and what we are doing with it,
- Keeping information securely in the right hands, and
- Holding good quality information.

Secondly, DPA aims to ensure that the legitimate concerns of individuals about the ways in which their data may be used are taken into account. In addition to being open and transparent, we will seek to give individuals as much choice as is possible and reasonable over what data is held and how it is used. This includes the right to erasure where data is no longer necessary and the right to rectification where the data is incorrect. Full details are available in the Privacy Notice issued at the point of gathering the data.

The Council has identified the following potential key risks, which this policy is designed to address:

- Breach of confidentiality (information being given out inappropriately).
- Insufficient clarity about the range of uses to which data will be put — leading to Data Subjects being insufficiently informed
- Failure to offer choice about data use when appropriate
- Breach of security by allowing unauthorised access.
- Failure to establish efficient systems of managing changes, leading to personal data being not up to date.
- Harm to individuals if personal data is not up to date
- Insufficient clarity about the way personal data is being used e.g., given out to general public.
- Failure to offer choices about use of contact details for staff, client's workers, or employees.

In order to address these concerns, to accompany this policy, we have a Privacy Policy, and we will issue Privacy Notices to explain what data we have, why we have it and what we will do with it. The Privacy Notice will also explain the data subject's rights. We will offer training to staff where this is necessary and appropriate in the circumstances to ensure compliance with DPA. Such training will vary according to the role, responsibilities, and seniority of those being trained.

We aim to keep data only for so long as is necessary which will vary from according to the circumstances.

We have no intention to transfer data internationally.

The person responsible for Data Protection is currently Steve Beech with the following responsibilities:

- Briefing Council on Data Protection responsibilities
- Reviewing Data Protection and related policies
- Advising other staff on Data Protection issues
- Ensuring that Data Protection induction and training takes place



- Notification
- Handling subject access requests
- Approving unusual or controversial disclosures of personal data
- Approving contracts with Data Processors
- Ensuring Data is stored securely
- Maintain a Data Audit and keep this up to date
- Reporting breaches to the Information Commissioners Office and the relevant Data Subject(s)

Significant breaches of this policy will be handled under the Council's disciplinary procedures which may amount to gross misconduct.

### **Subject Access Request**

Any subject access requests will be handled by the Compliance and Projects Manager.

Subject access requests must be in writing. All staff are required to pass on anything, which might be a subject access request to the Compliance and Projects Manager without delay. The applicant will be given their data within 1 month unless there are complexities in the case which justify extending this to 2 months. You will be notified of any extensions to the deadline for response and the reasons as soon as possible.

The Council has the right to refuse a subject access request where data is requested at unreasonable intervals, manifestly unfounded or excessive. You will be notified of the reasons as soon as possible.

Where the individual making a subject access request is not personally known to the Compliance and Projects Manager their identity will be verified before handing over any information.

The required information will be provided in a permanent and portable form unless the applicant makes a specific request to be given supervised access in person.

You have the right to request the information we hold is rectified if it is inaccurate or incomplete. You should contact the Compliance and Projects Manager and provide with the details of any inaccurate or incomplete data. We will then ensure that this is amended within one month. The Council may, in complex cases, extend this period to two months.

You have the right to erasure in the form of deletion or removal of personal data where there is no compelling reason for its continued processing. We have the right to refuse to erase data where this is necessary in the right of freedom of expression and information, to comply with a legal obligation for the performance of a public interest task, exercise of an official authority, for public health purposes in the public interest, for archiving purposes in the public interest, scientific research, historical research, statistical purposes or the exercise or defence of legal claims. You will be advised of the grounds of our refusal should any such request be refused.

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