

Frome Town Council Constitution

Chapter 15 Publication Scheme

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A copy of this document is also available in different formats such as large print, Braille, audio or in a different language, please contact the office if this is required.

Introduction

This policy lists the type of information held by Frome Town Council (FTC) and says what information is available to the public as part of our normal business activities. The information covered is included in the classes of information mentioned below, where this information is held by the authority. This scheme follows the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) Model Publication Scheme for local authorities.

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 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.

Classes of information

- 1 **Who we are and what we do**
Organisational information, locations and contacts, constitutional and legal governance.
- 2 **What we spend and how we spend it**
Financial information relating to projected and actual income and expenditure, tendering, procurement, and contracts.
- 3 **What our priorities are and how we are doing**
Strategy and performance information, plans, assessments, inspections, and reviews.
- 4 **How we make decisions**
Policy proposals and decisions. Decision making processes, internal criteria and procedures, consultations.
- 5 **Our policies and procedures**
Current written protocols for delivering our functions and responsibilities.
- 6 **Lists and registers**
Information held in registers required by law and other lists and registers relating to the functions of the authority.
- 7 **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.
- Archived information will be made available where reasonably practicable, subject to legal exemptions and retrieval limitations.

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 any 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.

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 Frome Town Council under the Publication Scheme

All information on the website is free; Charges will be applied in accordance with ICO guidance and relevant legislation for hard copies.

Information to be published	How the information can be obtained
Who we are and what we do	
Who is who on the Council and its Committees	Website / hard copy
Contact details for the Cllrs and staff	Website / hard copy
Location of the Town Hall and accessibility details	Website / hard copy
Staffing structure	Website / hard copy
Policies of the Council (the Constitution)	Website / hard copy
What we spend and how we spend it	
Financial Regulations	Website / hard copy
Annual return form and reports by internal and external auditors	Website / hard copy
Annual budget and precept demand	Website / hard copy
Expenditure and income over £500	Website / hard copy
Income and expenditure through the financial year as part of reports tabled at Council Matter Committee	Website / hard copy
Borrowing approval letter	Email / hard copy
Grants given and received	Website / hard copy
List of current contracts awarded and value of contract	Email / hard copy
Cllrs allowances and expenses	Website/ hard copy
What our priorities are and how we are doing	
Current Strategic Plan	Website / hard copy
Annual Action Plan to implement Strategic Plan	Website / hard copy
Work programme updates given to quarterly committee meetings	Website / hard copy
How we make decisions	
Standing Orders – how we make decisions	Website / hard copy
Timetable of meetings (Council, any committee/sub-committee meetings and town meetings)	Website / hard copy
Agendas of meetings (as above)	Website / hard copy
Minutes of meetings (as above)	Website / hard copy
Reports presented to council meetings	Website / hard copy

Information to be published	How the information can be obtained
Responses to consultation papers	Website / hard copy
Responses to planning applications	Website / hard copy
Our policies and procedures	
Policies of the Council (the Constitution)	Website / hard copy
Lists and Registers	
Assets Register	Email / hard copy
List of disposals	Website / hard copy
Disclosure log (indicating the information that has been provided in response to requests)	Email / hard copy
Register of Cllrs interests	Website / hard copy
Register of gifts and hospitality	Email / hard copy
The services we offer	
Advice and guidance	Website / hard copy
Booklets, leaflets	Website / hard copy
Media releases	Social media / website / hard copy
Summary of services provided	Website