

Seaton Town Council

Freedom of Information Publication Scheme

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The model publication scheme has been prepared and approved by the Information Commissioner. It may be adopted without modification by any public authority without further approval and will be valid until further notice.
- 1.2 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.
- 1.3 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.
 - Specify the information which is held by the authority and falls within the classifications below.
 - Proactively publish or otherwise make available as a matter of routine, information in line with the statements contained within this scheme.
 - 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.
 - Review and update on a regular basis the information the authority makes available under this scheme.
 - Produce a schedule of any fees charged for access to information which is made proactively available.
 - Make this publication scheme available to the public.

2.0 Classes of information Who we are and what we do.

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

3.0 What we spend and how we spend it.

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

4.0 What our priorities are and how we are doing.

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

5.0 How we make decisions.

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

6.0 Our policies and procedures.

6.1 Current written protocols for delivering our functions and responsibilities.

7.0 Lists and registers.

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

8.0 The services we offer.

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

8.2 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.

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

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

9.2 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.

9.3 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.

9.4 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.

9.5 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.

10.0 Charges which may be made for information published under this scheme

10.1 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.

10.2 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

10.3 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.

10.4 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.

11.0 Written requests

11.1 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.

11.2 The Council will respond to the request within 20 working days. If the Council is unable to share the information the letter will explain why.

COUNCIL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Freedom of Information Supplementary information

Information available from Seaton Town Council under the model publication scheme

Information to be published	How the information can be obtained	Cost
<i>Class 1 – Who are we and what we do (organisational information, structures, locations and contacts)</i>		
Who's who on the Council and its Committees	Hard Copy and website	N/A
Contact details for the Town Clerk and Council members (named contacts where possible with telephone number and email address (if used))	Hard Copy and website	N/A
Location of main Council office and accessibility details	Hard Copy and website	N/A
Staffing structure	Hard Copy and website	N/A
<i>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)</i>		
Annual return form and report by auditor	Hard Copy	3p per sheet
Finalised budget	Hard Copy	3p per sheet
Precept	Hard Copy	3p per sheet
Borrowing Approval letter	N/A	N/A
Financial Standing Orders and Regulations	Hard Copy	3p per sheet
Grants given and received	Hard Copy	3p per sheet
List of current contracts awarded and value of contract	Hard Copy	3p per sheet
Members' allowances and expenses	Hard Copy	3p per sheet
<i>Class 3 – What our priorities are and how we are doing (strategies, plans, performance indicators, audits, inspections and reviews)</i>		
Parish Plan (current and previous year as a minimum)	N/A	N/A
Annual Report to Parish or Community Meeting (current and previous year as a minimum)	Hard Copy and website	N/A
Local Council Award Scheme	N/A	N/A

Information to be published	How the information can be obtained	Cost
Local charters drawn up in accordance with DCLG guidelines	N/A	N/A
<i>Class 4 – How we make decisions (decision making process and records of decisions)</i>		
Timetable of meetings (Council, any committee/sub-committee meetings and parish meetings)	Hard Copy and website	3p per sheet
Agendas of meetings (as above)	Hard Copy and website	3p per sheet
Minutes of meetings (as above) note this will exclude information that is properly regarded as private to the meeting	Hard Copy and website	3p per sheet
Reports presented to council meetings - note this will exclude information that is properly regarded as private to the meeting.	Hard Copy	3p per sheet
Responses to consultation papers	Hard Copy	3p per sheet
Responses to planning applications	Hard Copy	3p per sheet
Bye-laws	N/A	N/A
<i>Class 5 – Our policies and procedures (current written protocols, policies and procedures for delivering our services and responsibilities)</i>		
Policies and procedures for the conduct of council business: Procedural standing orders Committee and sub-committee terms of reference Delegated authority in respect of officers Code of Conduct Policy statements	Hard copy & website Hard copy & website Hard copy & website Hard copy & website Hard copy & website	3p per sheet 3p per sheet 3p per sheet 3p per sheet 3p per 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 (including current vacancies)	Hard copy & website Hard copy & website Hard copy & website Hard copy & website Hard copy & website Hard copy & website	3p per sheet 3p per sheet 3p per sheet 3p per sheet 3p per sheet 3p per sheet

Information to be published	How the information can be obtained	Cost
Policies and procedures for handling requests for information Complaints procedures (including those covering requests for information and operating the publication scheme)		
Information security policy	N/A	N/A
Records management policies (records retention, destruction and archive)	N/A	N/A
Data protection policies	Hard copy & website	3p per sheet
Schedule of charges (for the publication of information)	Hard copy & website	3p per sheet
<i>Class 6 – Lists and Registers (currently maintained lists and registers only)</i>		
Any publicly available register or list (if any are held this should be publicised; in most circumstances existing access provisions will suffice)	Hard Copy	3p per sheet
Assets Register	Hard Copy	3p per sheet
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)	Hard Copy	3p per sheet
Register of members' interests	Hard Copy & website	3p per sheet
Register of gifts and hospitality	Hard Copy	3p per sheet
<i>Class 7 – The services we offer (information about the services we offer including leaflets, guidance and newsletters produced for the public and businesses)</i>		
Allotments	Hard Copy	3p per sheet
Cliff Field Gardens	Hard Copy	3p per sheet
Elizabeth Road Play Area	Hard Copy	3p per sheet
Marshlands	Hard Copy & website	3p per sheet
Seaton Down Hill	Hard Copy	3p per sheet
Underfleet Play Area	Hard Copy	3p per sheet