

CHURCH LAWTON PARISH COUNCIL

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION
PUBLICATION SCHEME**

Adopted May 2023

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Introduction

This publication scheme commits the Council 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 Council.

Additional assistance is provided to the definition of these classes in sector specific guidance manuals issued by the Information Commissioner.

The scheme commits the Council 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 that is held by the Council 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 Council 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.

Classes of Information

Class One - Who we are and what we do:

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

Class Two - What we spend and how we spend it:

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

Class Three - What our priorities are and how we are doing:

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

Class Four - How we make decisions:

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

Class Five - Our policies and procedures:

Current written protocols for delivering our functions and responsibilities.

Class Six - Lists and Registers:

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

Class Seven – Services we Offer:

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

The classes of information we will not generally release 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, excluding minutes.
- 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.
- Material readily available on external web-sites or from other sources
- Requests that would be impractical or too resource-intensive to prepare the material

The guidance is not meant to give an exhaustive list of everything that should be covered by a publication scheme. (The legal commitment is to the model publication scheme, and public authorities should look to provide as much information as possible on a routine basis.)

Method of Publication

The Parish Council 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 the Council, information will be provided on its 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, the Parish Council 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

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
- 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 and its provision will be considered in accordance with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act.

Contact Details

If you require a paper version of any information or want to ask whether information is available please contact the Council by telephone, email or letter. Contact details are set out below. Alternatively, you can visit our website: www.churchlawtonparishcouncil.co.uk

Email: Clerk@churchlawton-pc.gov.uk

Tel: 01270 883978

Contact Address: The Clerk, Rose Villa, Foden Avenue, Alsager, Stoke-on-Trent, ST7 2PT

To help us to process requests quickly, please mark your correspondence "Publication Scheme Request".

If the information you're looking for isn't available via the scheme [and isn't on our website], you can still contact the Clerk at Church Lawton Parish Council to ask if we have it.

Date adopted:

Minute Reference:

Clerk:

Date:

Chairman:

Date:

Appendix A – Published Information

<u>Information to be Published</u>	<u>How Information can be obtained</u>	<u>Cost – Hard Copy</u>
Class 1 - Who we are and what we do		
<i>(Organisational information, structures, locations and contacts – current information only)</i>		
Who's who on the Council and its Committees	Hard copy / electronic / online	Nil
Contact details for Parish Clerk and Council members	Hard copy / electronic / online	Nil
Location of Council Material and accessibility/contact details	Hard copy / electronic / online	Nil
Staffing structure	Hard copy / electronic / online	Nil
Class 2 – What we spend and how we spend it		
<i>(Financial information relating to projected and actual income and expenditure, procurement, contracts and financial audit)</i>		
Annual return form and reports by auditors	Hard copy / electronic / online	Nil
Finalised budget	Hard copy / electronic / online	Nil
Precept	Hard copy / electronic / online	Nil
Standing Orders and Financial Regulations	Hard copy / electronic / online	£2.50 each
Grants given and received	Hard copy / electronic / online	Nil
List of current contracts awarded and value of contract	Hard Copy.	Nil
Members' allowances and expenses	Hard copy / electronic	Nil

<u>Information to be Published</u>	<u>How Information can be obtained</u>	<u>Cost - Hard Copy</u>
Class 3 – What our priorities are and how we are doing		
<i>(Strategies and plans, performance indicators, audits, inspections and reviews)</i>		
Annual Parish Meeting Report	Hard copy / electronic / online	Nil
Class 4 – How we make decisions		
<i>(Decision making processes and records of decisions)</i>		
Timetable of meetings	Hard copy / electronic / online	Nil
Agendas of meetings	Hard Copy / electronic/ online. Published on select Parish Council noticeboards and website 3 clear days prior to meeting.	Nil
Minutes of meetings	Hard copy / electronic / online	Nil
Reports presented to council meetings .	Hard Copy / online (certain reports)/electronic. NB this will exclude information that is properly regarded as private to the meeting	Up to £5
Responses to consultation papers	Hard copy / electronic/online	Nil
Responses to planning applications	Hard copy / electronic / online	Nil
All comments can be viewed at planning.cheshireeast.gov.uk		

Information to be Published

How Information can be obtained

Cost - Hard Copy

Class 5 – Our policies and procedures

(Current written protocols, policies and procedures for delivering our services and responsibilities)

All adopted policies not solely relating to employment of staff	Hard Copy/electronic/online	Up to £5
All adopted policies relating solely to the employment of staff	Hard Copy/electronic	Up to £5
Schedule of adopted Policies	Hard Copy/electronic/online	Up to £5
Schedule of charges (for the publication of information)	n/a	

Class 6 – Lists and Registers Currently maintained lists and registers only

Current maintained lists and registers online

Assets Register	Hard copy / electronic / online	Nil
Register of members' interests	Hard copy / electronic / online	Nil
Register of gifts and hospitality	Hard copy / inspection	Nil

Information to be Published

How Information can be obtained

Cost - Hard Copy

Class 7 – Services we offer

(Information about the services we offer, including leaflets, guidance and newsletters produced for the public and businesses) Current information only

Newsletter	Hard Copy/electronic/online	£2
Parish Assets such as benches, noticeboards, bus-stop, planters	Hard copy/electronic/online	