

PUBLICATION SCHEME



STANLEY TOWN COUNCIL

Civic Hall, Front Street, Stanley DH90NA

Freedom of information

The publication scheme below is referred to in the Governance Toolkit for Parish & Town Councils (Version three April 2009) and based on the model scheme produced by the Information Commissioner in 2009 which can be downloaded from the Commissioner's website and adapted to the public authority concerned, (i.e. www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk).

The scheme which shall be reviewed at least annually, was approved by the Finance and General Purposes Committee on the 23rd October 2012 and adopted by the full Council on the 13th November 2012.

In accordance with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, Stanley Town Council will make available the following information in hard copy on request from the Clerk of the Council or by inspection by prior appointment.

Reasonable charges may be raised for the provision of copies of the documents / information listed in each of the classes.

1. COUNCIL INTERNAL PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE:

Minutes of Council, Committee and Sub-Committee meetings – limited to the last two years

Procedural Standing Orders

Council's Annual Report to Town Meeting

2. CODE OF CONDUCT:

Members Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Members Register of Interests

Register of Members Interest Book

3. EMPLOYMENT PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE:

Terms and conditions of employment

Job description

4. PLANNING DOCUMENTS:

Stanley Town Council's responses to planning applications – all other planning information is available from Durham County Council

5. AUDIT AND ACCOUNTS:

Annual return form – limited to the last financial year

Annual Statutory report by auditor (internal and external) – limited to the last financial year

Receipt / Payment books, Receipt books of all kinds, Bank Statements from all accounts – limited to the last financial year

Precept request – limited to the last financial year

VAT records – limited to the last financial year

Financial Standing Orders and Regulations

Assets register – including details of recreation grounds, if applicable

Risk Assessments

All information is available from:

The Town Clerk
Stanley Town Council
Stanley Civic Hall
Front Street
Stanley
Co. Durham
DH9 0NA
Telephone: 01207 299 109
info@stanley-tc.gov.uk

Stanley Town Council adopted the following (Model) Publication Scheme at the Ordinary meeting held on the 13th November 2012

Model Publication Scheme - V1.0

Model Publication Scheme: This 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.

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.

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 2000, 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 equality, 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.

Review Date: May 2019

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 2000.