

## **1. Introduction**

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:

- a. 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.
- b. To specify the information which is held by the authority and falls within the classifications below.
- c. To proactively publish or otherwise make available as a matter of routine, information in line with the statements contained within this scheme.
- d. 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.
- e. To review and update on a regular basis the information the authority makes available under this scheme.
- f. To produce a schedule of any fees charged for access to information which is made proactively available.
- g. To make this publication scheme available to the public.

## **2. 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, 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.

**3. 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 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.

**4. 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.

**5. 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.

**6. Information Available**

This document is the guide to information available from Birling Parish Council under the model publication scheme, and was adopted on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Contact Information:

Birling Parish Council, Parish Office, 101 Beacon Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4LH    Tel: 07769 254176    e-mail: [clerk@birlingparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@birlingparishcouncil.gov.uk)    website: [www.birlingparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.birlingparishcouncil.gov.uk)  
 Proper Officer: Julie Miller, Clerk

<b>Information to be published</b>	<b>How the information can be obtained</b>	<b>Cost (per sheet)</b>
<p><b>Class1 - Who we are and what we do</b>                      (Organisational information, structures, locations and contacts)</p> <p>This will be current information only</p> <p>N.B. Councils should already be publishing as much information as possible about how they can be contacted.</p>	Website Hard copy	Free 25p
Who's who on the Council and its Committees	Website Hard copy	Free 25p
Contact details for Parish Clerk and Council members (named contacts where possible with telephone number and email address (if used))	Website Hard copy	Free 25p
Location of main Council office and accessibility details	Website Hard copy	Free 25p
Staffing structure	Website Hard copy	Free 25p
<p><b>Class 2 – What we spend and how we spend it</b>                      (Financial information relating to projected and actual income and expenditure, procurement, contracts and financial audit)</p> <p>Current and previous financial year as a minimum</p>	Website Hard copy	Free 25p
Annual return form and report by auditor	Website Hard copy	Free 25p
Finalised budget	Website Hard copy	Free 25p
Precept	Website Hard copy	Free 25p
Borrowing Approval letter	N/A	25p
Financial Standing Orders and Regulations	Website Hard copy	Free 25p
Grants given and received	Website Hard copy	Free 25p
List of current contracts awarded and value of contract	Website	Free

**BIRLING PARISH COUNCIL MODEL PUBLICATION SCHEME    MAY 2021**

	Hard copy	25p
Members' allowances and expenses	Website Hard copy	Free 25p
<b>Class 3 – What our priorities are and how we are doing</b> (Strategies and plans, performance indicators, audits, inspections and reviews)	Website Hard copy	Free 25p
Parish Plan (current and previous year as a minimum)	Website Hard copy	Free 25p
Annual Report to Parish or Community Meeting (current and previous year as a minimum)	Website Hard copy	Free 25p
Quality status	N/A	
Local charters drawn up in accordance with DCLG guidelines	N/A	
<b>Class 4 – How we make decisions</b> (Decision making processes and records of decisions)	Website Hard copy	Free 25p
Current and previous council year as a minimum		
Timetable of meetings (Council, any committee/sub-committee meetings and parish meetings)	Website Hard copy	Free 25p
Agendas of meetings (as above)	Website Hard copy	Free 25p
Minutes of meetings (as above) – nb this will exclude information that is properly regarded as private to the meeting.	Website Hard copy	Free 25p
Reports presented to council meetings - nb this will exclude information that is properly regarded as private to the meeting.	Website Hard copy	Free 25p
Responses to consultation papers	Website Hard copy	Free 25p
Responses to planning applications	Website Hard copy	Free 25p
Bye-laws	N/A	
<b>Class 5 – Our policies and procedures</b> (Current written protocols, policies and procedures for delivering our services and responsibilities)	Website Hard copy	Free 25p
Current information only		
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	Website Hard copy	Free 25p
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	Website Hard copy	Free 25p

**BIRLING PARISH COUNCIL MODEL PUBLICATION SCHEME    MAY 2021**

Recruitment policies (including current vacancies) Policies and procedures for handling requests for information Complaints procedures (including those covering requests for information and operating the publication scheme)		
Information security policy	Website Hard copy	Free 25p
Records management policies (records retention, destruction and archive)	Website Hard copy	Free 25p
Data protection policies	Website Hard copy	Free 25p
Schedule of charges (for the publication of information)	Website Hard copy	Free 25p
<b>Class 6 – Lists and Registers</b>		
Currently maintained lists and registers only		
Any publicly available register or list (if any are held this should be publicised; in most circumstances existing access provisions will suffice)	Website Hard copy	Free 25p
Assets Register	Website Hard copy	Free 25p
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)	Website Hard copy	Free 25p
Register of members' interests	Website Hard copy	Free 25p
Register of gifts and hospitality	Website Hard copy	Free 25p
<b>Class 7 – The services we offer</b> (Information about the services we offer, including leaflets, guidance and newsletters produced for the public and businesses)		
Current information only		
Allotments	N/A	
Burial grounds and closed churchyards	N/A	
Community centres and village halls	N/A	
Parks, playing fields and recreational facilities	N/A	
Seating, litter bins, clocks, memorials and/or lighting	Website Hard copy	Free 25p
Bus shelters	N/A	
Markets	N/A	
Public conveniences	N/A	
Agency agreements	N/A	
A summary of services for which the council is entitled to recover a fee, together with those fees (e.g. burial fees)	N/A	