

Subject	Freedom of Information Act Publication Scheme Update	Status	For Publication
Report to	Authority	Date	30 th September 2020
Report of	Director and Clerk		
Equality Impact Assessment	Not Required	Attached	No
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1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To secure approval of an update to the Authority's Freedom of Information Act Publication Scheme.
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2 Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are recommended to:

Approve the updated publication scheme set out at Appendix A.

3 Link to Corporate Objectives

- 3.1 This report links to the delivery of the following corporate objectives:

Effective and Transparent Governance

To uphold effective governance showing prudence and propriety at all times.

Ensuring that the Authority is making as much information as possible available to the public reflects both good governance and a commitment to transparency but also reduces the time taken to respond to freedom of information requests.

4 Implications for the Corporate Risk Register

- 4.1 The actions outlined in this report address the risks identified in the Corporate Risk Register relating to legal and regulatory compliance by ensuring that policy documents are reviewed and updated as necessary.

5 Background and Options

- 5.1 The Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires public authorities to maintain a publication scheme which sets out the information which they will routinely publish and how it can be accessed. On implementation of the Act the Information Commissioner provided template schemes for different types of public body, which have developed to provide a framework for the publication of information allowing members of the public to more easily access the information they are looking for. Following the implementation of the Act the coalition government from 2010 developed additional requirements for local authorities in particular in the Code of Transparency which among other things requires the publication of details of all payments over £250 by principal councils.
- 5.2 The Authority has long had a commitment to transparency and deals with as much of its business in public as possible. Over the last two years additional information has been published on the website and the structure of the website has been altered in order to make information more accessible. This is an ongoing process and further work is planned to improve the design and layout of the site. However, the provision of additional information in an easily accessible form means that the current Publication Scheme has become outdated and it is necessary for it to be updated to reflect the reality of the situation. An updated scheme reflecting the current position is presented for approval at Appendix A.

6 Implications

- 6.1 The proposals outlined in this report have the following implications:

Financial	None directly.
Human Resources	None directly
ICT	None directly
Legal	The maintenance of a publication scheme is a requirement of the Act and it is necessary to ensure the scheme is kept up to date, therefore the proposed scheme ensures legal compliance.
Procurement	None directly

George Graham

Director

Sarah Norman

Clerk

Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection
Freedom of Information Act 2000	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/36/contents