

Thame Town Council's Publication Scheme

This publication scheme commits Thame Town 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 authority.

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires public authorities 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.
- Publish any dataset held by the authority that has been requested, and any updated versions it holds, unless the authority is satisfied that it is not appropriate to do so; to publish the dataset, where reasonably practicable, in an electronic form that is capable of re-use; and, if any information in the dataset is a relevant copyright work and the public authority is the only owner, to make the information available for re-use under the terms of the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2015, if they apply, and otherwise under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act section 19.

The publication scheme is organised into seven classes:

- Who we are and what we do
- What we spend and how we spend it
- What our priorities are and how we are doing
- How we make decisions
- Our policies and procedures
- Lists and registers
- The services we offer

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.

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.

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.

Charges may also be made for making datasets (or parts of datasets) that are relevant copyright works available for re-use. These charges will be in accordance with the terms of the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2015, where they apply, or with regulations made under section 11B of the Freedom of Information Act, or with other statutory powers of the public authority.

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.

Information to be published	How the information can be obtained	Cost*
<p>Class 1 - Who we are and what we do</p> <p><i>(Organisational information, locations and contacts, constitutional and legal governance)</i></p>		
Who's who on the Council and its Committees	Website / hardcopy	Free*
Contact details for Parish Clerk and Council members (named contacts where possible with telephone number and email address (if used))	Website / hardcopy	Free*
Location of main Council office and accessibility details	Website / hardcopy / noticeboard	Free*
Staffing structure	Website / hardcopy	Free*
<p>Class 2 – What we spend and how we spend it</p> <p><i>(Financial information relating to projected and actual income and expenditure, tendering, procurement and contracts.)</i></p>		

Annual return form and report by auditor	Website / hardcopy / noticeboard	Free*
Finalised budget	Website / hardcopy	Free*
Precept	Website / hardcopy	Free*
Borrowing Approval letter	Not applicable	
Financial Standing Orders and Regulations	Website / hardcopy	Free*
Grants given and received	Website / hardcopy	Free*
List of current contracts awarded and value of contract	Website / hardcopy	Free*
Members' allowances and expenses	Hardcopy	Free*
Class 3 – What our priorities are and how we are doing <i>(Strategy and performance information, plans, assessments, inspections and reviews)</i>		
Parish Plan	Website / hardcopy	Free*
Annual Report to Parish or Community Meeting (current and previous year as a minimum)	Website / hardcopy	Free*
Quality status	Not applicable	
Local charters drawn up in accordance with DCLG guidelines	Not applicable	
Class 4 – How we make decisions <i>(Policy proposals and decisions. Decision making processes, internal criteria and procedures, consultations.)</i>		
Timetable of meetings (Council, committee and parish meetings)	Website / hardcopy	Free*
Agendas of meetings (as above)	Website / noticeboard (current) / hardcopy	Free*
Minutes of meetings (as above) – n.b. this will exclude information that is properly regarded as private to the meeting.	Website / hardcopy	Free*
Reports presented to council meetings – n.b. this will exclude information that is properly regarded as private to the meeting.	Website / hardcopy	Free*
Responses to consultation papers	By appointment at the Town Council Offices	
Responses to planning applications	Website / hardcopy	Free*

Bye-laws	By appointment at the Town Council Offices	
<p>Class 5 – Our policies and procedures</p> <p><i>(Current written protocols for delivering our functions and responsibilities)</i></p>		
<p>Policies and procedures for the conduct of council business:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procedural standing orders • Committee and sub-committee terms of reference • Delegated authority in respect of officers • Code of Conduct • Policy statements 	Website / hardcopy	Free*
<p>Policies and procedures for the provision of services and about the employment of staff:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal instructions to staff and policies relating to the delivery of services • Equality and diversity policy • Health and safety policy • 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) 	Website / hardcopy	Free*
<p>Information security policy</p> <p>Records management policies (records retention, destruction and archive)</p> <p>Data protection policies</p> <p>Schedule of charges (for the publication of information)</p>	Website / hardcopy	Free*
<p>Class 6 – Lists and Registers</p> <p><i>(Information held in registers required by law and other lists and registers relating to the functions of the authority.)</i></p>		

Any publicly available register or list Assets register Disclosure log Register of gifts and hospitality	By appointment at the Town Council Offices	Free*
Register of members' interests	Website / hardcopy	Free*
Class 7 – The services we offer <i>(Advice and guidance, booklets and leaflets, transactions and media releases. A description of the services offered.)</i>		
Allotments	By appointment at the Town Council Offices	
Burial grounds and closed churchyards	Website / hardcopy	Free*
Community centres and village halls	Not applicable	
Parks, playing fields and recreational facilities	Website / hardcopy	Free*
Seating, litter bins, clocks, memorials and lighting	Website / hardcopy	Free*
Bus shelters	Website / hardcopy	Free*
Markets	Website / hardcopy	Free*
Public conveniences	Not applicable - Responsibility of SODC ¹	
Agency agreements	By appointment at the Town Council Offices	
Services for which the council is entitled to recover a fee, together with those fees (e.g. burial fees)	By appointment at the Town Council Offices	
Additional Information		
As determined by the Council	Website / hardcopy	Free*

*Most of the information is available free of charge on our website. Where the document is not available online, one hard copy will be supplied free of charge on request. Below are our standard charges for printing and posting:

- Photocopying (Black and White) – 20p per A4 sheet or (Colour) – 40p per A4 sheet
- Postage – cost of Royal Mail standard 2nd class

¹ South Oxfordshire District Council

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.

Contact Details

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