

HIGH HALDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Publication Scheme

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:

1. 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.
2. To specify the information which is held by the authority and falls within the classifications below.
3. To proactively publish or otherwise make available as a matter of routine, information in line with the statements contained within this scheme.
4. 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.
5. To review and update on a regular basis the information the authority makes available under this scheme.
6. To produce a schedule of any fees charged for access to information which is made proactively available.
7. To make this publication scheme available to the public.
8. To 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 term 'dataset' is defined in section 11 (5) of the Freedom of Information Act. The term 'relevant copyright work' is defined in section 19 (8) of that Act.

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:

1. 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.
2. Information in draft form.
3. 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.

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.

Information Available

This document is the guide to information available from High Halden Parish Council under the model publication scheme and was adopted on the 12 May 2025.

Contact Information:

High Halden Parish Council, 5 Artisan Road, Headcorn, Kent, TN27 9AZ

Tel: 07900 693572

e-mail: clerk@highhaldenparishcouncil.gov.uk

website:

<https://www.hugofox.com/community/high-halden-parish-council-16124/home/>

Responsible Officer: Louise Goldsmith, Parish Clerk/RFO

Information to be published	How the information can be obtained	Cost (postage not included)
Class1 - Who we are and what we do (Organisational information, structures, locations and contacts)		
This will be current information only N.B. Councils should already be publishing as much information as possible about how they can be contacted.	Website Email Hard copy	Free Free 25p/p
Who's who on the Council and its Committees	Website Email	Free Free
Contact details for the Clerk and Council members (named contacts where possible with telephone number and email address (if used))	Website Email Hard copy	Free Free 25p/p
Class 2 – What we spend and how we spend it (Financial information relating to projected and actual income and expenditure, procurement, contracts and financial audit)		
Current and previous financial year as a minimum	Website Hard copy	Free 25p/p
Annual return form and report by auditor (AGAR)	Website Hard copy	Free Free
Finalised budget and Precept	Website Hard copy	Free 25p/p
Financial Standing Orders and Regulations	Website Hard copy	Free 25p/p
Grants given and received	Website Hard copy	Free 25p/p
List of current contracts awarded and value of contract	Website Hard copy	Free 25p/p
Class 3 – What our priorities are and how we are doing (Strategies and plans, performance indicators, audits, inspections and reviews)		
Annual Reports (current and previous year as a minimum)	Website Hard copy	Free 25p/p

Class 4 – How we make decisions (Decision making processes and records of decisions) Current and previous council year as a minimum		
Timetable of meetings (Council, any committee/sub-committee meeting and working groups/parties)	Website Hard copy	Free 25p/p
Agendas of meetings (as above)	Website Notice Boards Email	Free Free Free
Minutes of meetings (as above) – n.b. this will exclude information that is properly regarded as private to the meeting.	Website Email Hard copy	Free Free 25p/p
Reports presented to council meetings – n.b. this will exclude information that is properly regarded as private to the meeting.	Email Hard copy	Free 25p/p
Responses to consultation papers	Email Hard copy	Free 25p/p
Responses to planning applications (included in minutes)	Website Email	Free Free
Class 5 – Our policies and procedures (Current written protocols, policies and procedures for delivering our services and responsibilities). Current information only.		
Policies and procedures for the conduct of council business: Procedural standing orders Financial Regulations Code of Conduct Policy Statement	Website Email Hard copy	Free Free 25p/p
Class 6 – Lists and Registers 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/p
Assets Register	Email Hard copy	Free 25p/p
Register of members' interests	Website Hard copy	Free 25p/p

Class 7 – The services we offer (Information about the services we offer, including leaflets, guidance and newsletters produced for the public and businesses). Current information only.		
Parks, playing fields and recreational facilities	Apply to Parish Clerk	
Seating, litter bins, memorials	Apply to Parish Clerk	
Newsletters	Apply to Parish Clerk	
Bus shelters	Apply to Parish Clerk	
Village Greens	Apply to Parish Clerk	

Type of Charge	Cost
Photocopying	25 pence per sheet
Postage	2 nd class post
Access to website	Free of charge