

# PEACEHAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

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TOWN COUNCIL OFFICE  
MERIDIAN CENTRE  
MERIDIAN WAY  
PEACEHAVEN  
EAST SUSSEX

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION POLICY

### 1. Introduction

1.1 The Freedom of Information Act 2000 is intended to promote a culture of openness and accountability amongst public authorities by providing people with rights of access to the information held by them.

1.2 The council will comply with the requirements of the act, and in particular will:

- Make as much information as possible available via the publication scheme
- Respond to requests for information as quickly as possible, and in any event, within the statutory timescales
- Where, exceptionally, we believe it is not going to be possible to respond fully within the statutory timescale (for example, where we have to consider the public interest tests), we will:
  - Advise you why, and give an estimated date by which the information will be provided, and
  - Provide as much of the information as possible within the earlier timescale
- Apply exemptions appropriately and consistently
- Ensure that any fees charged are calculated appropriately and consistently

### 2. How to make a request

2.1 A large amount of information is freely available on the council's website, which can be found at [www.peacehaventowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.peacehaventowncouncil.gov.uk)

2.2 If you are unable to find the information you are looking for, you can request the information directly from the council.

2.3 The preferred method for requesting information from the council is in writing; either email or letter, to ensure the request is clearly understood. Requests should be made to the Clerk at the above address

2.4 The request should provide as full a description as possible of the information you require, and your preferred method for receiving the information.

### 3. Complaints

3.1 The council would normally expect the Clerk or other named officer to understand what information you have asked for and be able to tell you where you can find it. If the information you received is not what you asked for or need, you should contact the Clerk or named officer to clarify your requirements.

3.2 If you believe that the council has not dealt with your request fairly and it cannot be resolved on an informal basis, you should follow our complaints procedure.

3.3 If you have followed our complaints procedure and are still not happy with how we have dealt with your request, you may also contact the Information Commissioner's Office to ask them to investigate further. They can be contacted at:

Postal address:       The Information Commissioner's Office  
                              Wycliffe House, Water Lane  
                              Wilmslow, Cheshire  
                              SK9 5AF  
Website:               [www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk)  
Telephone:            0303 123 1113

### 4. Charges

4.1 Charges made by the council in relation to the publication scheme will be justified, transparent and kept to a minimum.

4.2 Information which is published and accessed on the council's website is provided free of charge.

4.3 Charges will be made for actual disbursements incurred as detailed below:

#### Information available from Peacehaven Town Council under the FOI model publication scheme

Information to be published	How the information can be obtained	Cost
<b>Class 1 – Who we are and what we do</b> (Organisational information, structures, locations and contacts)		
Who's who on the council and its committees	Hard copy Website	Disbursement cost
Contact details for the Clerk and council members	Hard copy Website	Disbursement cost
Location of main council office and accessibility details	Hard copy Website	Disbursement cost

Staffing structure	Hard copy Website	Disbursement cost
<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)		
Full accounts and audit report	Hard copy Website	Disbursement cost
Finalised budget	Hard copy Website	Disbursement cost
Precept	Hard copy Website	Disbursement cost
Borrowing Approval letter	Hard copy Website	Disbursement cost
Financial Standing Orders and Regulations	Hard copy Website	Disbursement cost
Grants given and received	Hard copy Website	Disbursement cost
List of current contracts awarded and value of contract	Hard copy Website	Disbursement cost
Members' allowances and expenses	Hard copy Website	Disbursement cost
<b>Class 3 – What our priorities are and how we are doing</b> (Strategies and plans, performance indicators, audits, inspections and reviews)		
Business Plan / Vision Document	Hard copy Website	Disbursement cost
Annual report to Town Conference / Parish Assembly	Hard copy Website	Disbursement cost
<b>Class 4 – How we make decisions</b> (Decision making processes and records of decisions)		
Timetable of meetings (Council, any committee/sub-committee meetings and parish meetings)	Hard copy Web site	Disbursement cost
Agendas of meetings (as above)	Hard copy Web site	Disbursement cost
Minutes of meetings (as above) – <i>n.b. this will exclude information that is properly regarded as private to the meeting</i>	Hard copy Web site	Disbursement cost
Reports presented to council meetings – <i>n.b. this will exclude information that is properly regarded as private to the meeting</i>	Hard copy Web site	Disbursement cost
Responses to consultation papers	Hard copy Web site	Disbursement cost
Responses to planning applications	Hard copy Web site	Disbursement cost
Bye-laws	Hard copy	Disbursement cost
<b>Class 5 – Our policies and procedures</b>		

(Current written protocols, policies and procedures for delivering our services and responsibilities)		
<u>Policies and procedures for the conduct of council business:</u> Procedural standing orders Committee and sub-committee terms of reference Delegated authority in respect of officers Code of Conduct Policy statements	Hard copy Web site	Disbursement cost
<u>Policies and procedures about the employment of staff:</u> Equal Opportunities Statement 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)	Hard copy Web site	Disbursement cost
Record management policies (records retention, destruction and archive)	Hard copy Web site	Disbursement cost
Schedule of charges (for the publication of information)	Hard copy Web site	Disbursement cost
<b>Class 6 – Lists and Registers</b> (Currently maintained lists and registers)		
Any publicly available register or list (if any are held this should be publicised; in most circumstances existing access provisions will suffice)	Hard copy – some information may be available for inspection only	Disbursement cost
Asset Register	Hard copy Web site	Disbursement cost
Register of members' interests	Hard copy Web site	Disbursement cost
Register of gifts and hospitality	Hard copy Web site	Disbursement cost
<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)		
Allotments	Available for inspection	Free of charge
Burial grounds and closed churchyards	Available for inspection	Free of charge
Community centres and village halls	Hard copy	Free of charge

	booking form	
Parks, playing fields and recreational facilities	Hard copy booking form	Free of charge
Seating, litter bins, clocks, memorials and lighting	Available for inspection	Free of charge
Bus shelters	Available for inspection	Free of charge
Newsletters	Web Site E-Distribution to subscribers	Free of charge
A summary of services for which the council is entitled to recover a fee, together with those fees (e.g. burial fees)	Hard copy Web site	Disbursement cost