# BRIDGNORTH TOWN COUNCIL TRANSPARENCY CODE



Adopted May 2016

# Part 2: Information which must be published

Part 2.1: Information to be published quarterly by Bridgnorth Town Council

	Applicable to Bridgnorth Town Council
<ul> <li>26. Data covered by this section includes:</li> <li>expenditure exceeding £500 (see paragraphs 28 and 29)</li> <li>Government Procurement Card transactions (paragraph 230)</li> <li>procurement information (see paragraphs 31 and 32).</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Individual Invoices</li> <li>Not applicable</li> <li>See later in this publication document</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>27. The data and information referred to in this Part (2.1) must be published:</li> <li>on the first occasion, not later than 31 December 2014 (amended June 2015)</li> <li>thereafter, not less than quarterly and not later than one month after the quarter to which the data and information is applicable</li> </ul>	

## Expenditure exceeding £500

<ul> <li>28. Local authorities must publish details of each individual item of expenditure that exceeds £5006. This includes items of expenditure7, consistent with Local Government Association guidance8, such as:  <ul> <li>individual invoices</li> <li>grant payments</li> <li>expense payments</li> <li>payments for goods and services</li> <li>grants</li> <li>grant in aid</li> <li>rent</li> <li>credit notes over £500, and</li> <li>transactions with other public bodies.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Yes</li> <li>Put on website</li> <li>Yes (on individual claims over £50)</li> <li>Yes</li> <li>Publish all grants</li> <li>Publish all grants</li> <li>Not applicable</li> <li>Not applicable</li> <li>Not applicable</li> </ul>

	Applicable to Bridgnorth Town Council
<ul> <li>29. For each individual item of expenditure the following information must be published: <ul> <li>date the expenditure was incurred</li> </ul> </li> <li>local authority department which incurred the expenditure</li> <li>beneficiary</li> <li>summary of the purpose of the expenditures</li> <li>amount<sub>10</sub></li> <li>Value Added Tax that cannot be recovered, and</li> <li>merchant category (eg. computers, software etc).</li> </ul>	Extra column to be added to existing publications Extra column to be added to existing publications

### Unrecoverable VAT

Information on VAT that cannot be recovered is not available until the end of year accounts are complete.

	Applicable to Bridgnorth Town Council
Government Procurement Card transactions	Not applicable
<ul> <li>30. Local authorities must publish details of every transaction on a Government Procurement Card. For each transaction, the following details must be published:</li> <li>date of the transaction</li> <li>local authority department which incurred the expenditure</li> <li>beneficiary</li> <li>amount<sub>11</sub></li> <li>Value Added Tax that cannot be recovered</li> <li>summary of the purpose of the expenditure, and</li> <li>merchant category (eg. computers, software etc).</li> </ul>	

#### **Procurement Information**

	Applicable to Bridgnorth Town Council
<ul> <li>31. Local authorities must publish details of every invitation to tender for contracts to provide goods and/or services12 with a value that exceeds £5,00013, 14. For each invitation, the following details must be published:</li> <li>reference number</li> <li>title</li> <li>description of the goods and/or services sought</li> <li>start, end and review dates, and</li> <li>local authority department responsible.</li> </ul>	Publish on website already

Perhaps add tender specifications documents to website

	Applicable to Bridgnorth Town Council
32. Local authorities must also publish details of any contract15, commissioned activity, purchase order, framework agreement and any other legally enforceable agreement with a value that exceeds £5,00016. For each contract, the following details must be published:  • reference number  • title of agreement  • local authority department responsible  • description of the goods and/or services being provided  • supplier name and details  • sum to be paid over the length of the contract or the estimated annual spending or budget for the contract17  • Value Added Tax that cannot be recovered  • start, end and review dates  • whether or not the contract was the result of an invitation to quote or a published invitation to tender, and  • whether or not the supplier is a small or medium sized enterprise and/or a voluntary or community sector organisation and where it is, provide	Yes where relevant
the relevant registration number 26	

# Part 2.2: Information to be published annually

The data on social housing assets (see paragraphs 38 -41) must be published:

- On the first occasion, not later than 1 September 2015 (based on the most up to date valuation data available at the time of publishing the information), then
- In April 2016, and
- **Every April thereafter**

Not applicable (Shropshire Council)

Local authority land		
Applicable to Bridgnorth Town Council		
<ul> <li>Yes</li> <li>Not applicable</li> <li>Yes</li> </ul>		
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However, information about the following land and building assets are to be excluded from publication:

- rent free properties provided by traders (such as information booths in public places or ports)
- operational railways and canals
- operational public highways (but any adjoining land not subject to public rights should be included)
- assets of national security, and

- information deemed inappropriate for public access as a result of data protection and/or disclosure controls (eg. such as refuge houses).
- 36. For the purpose of this dataset about local authority land (paragraphs 35-37), details about social housing should not be published. However, information about the value of social housing stock contained in a local authority's Housing Revenue Account does need to be published for the social housing asset value dataset (paragraphs 38 to 41)

	Applicable to Bridgnorth Town Council
37. For each land or building asset, the	See No.: 30
following information must be published	
together in one place:	
	TITLE
<ul> <li>Unique Property Reference Number</li> </ul>	TITLE
Unique asset identity - the local	EVOLUBE COTV CONTROL BOOM
reference identifier used by the local	EXCLUDE CCTV CONTROL ROOM
body, sometimes known as local	
name or building block. There should	
be one entry per asset or user/owner	
(eg. on one site there could be several buildings or in one building	
there could be several users	
floors/rooms etc – where this is the	
case, each of these will have a	
separate asset identity). This must	
include the original reference number	
from the data source plus authority	
code	
<ul> <li>name of the building/land or both</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>street number or numbers - any sets</li> </ul>	
of 2 or more numbers should be	
separated with the '-' symbol (eg. 10-	
15 London Road)	
<ul> <li>street name – this is the postal road</li> </ul>	
address21	
• post town	
United Kingdom postcode	
map reference – local authorities	
may use either Ordnance Survey or	
ISO 6709 systems to identify the	
location of an asset, but must make	
clear which is being used. Where an Ordnance Survey mapping system is	
used (the grid system) then assets	
will be identified using Eastings	
before Northings. Where geocoding	
in accordance with ISO 6709 is being	
used to identify the centre point of	
the asset location then that reference	
must indicate its ISO coordinates	
<ul> <li>whether the local authority owns the</li> </ul>	
freehold or a lease for the asset and	

for whichever category applies, the local authority must list all the characteristics that apply from the options given below:

#### for freehold assets:

- occupied by the local authority
- o ground leasehold
- leasehold
- licence
- vacant (for vacant properties, local authorities should not publish the full address details and should only publish the first part of the postcode22).

#### for leasehold assets:

- occupied by the local authority
- o ground leasehold
- o sub leasehold
- o licence.

#### for other assets:

- free text description e.g. rights of way, access etc 32
- whether or not the asset is land only (i.e. without permanent buildings) or it is land with a permanent building.

Social Housing asset value - Not applicable to Bridgnorth Town Council

- 38. Local authorities must publish the value of social housing stock that is held in their Housing Revenue Account 33.
- 39. The following social housing stock data must be published:
- Valuation data to be listed at postal sector level 34 (e.g. PO1 1\*\*), without indicating individual dwelling values, and ensuring the data is not capable of being made disclosive of individual properties, in line with the disclosure protocols set out in paragraphs 15 to 18
- Valuation data of the dwellings using both the Existing Use Value for Social Housing and market value (valued in accordance of guidance 35) as at 1 April. This should be based on the authority's most up to date valuation data as at the time of publication of the information.
- An explanation of the difference between the tenanted sale value of dwellings within the Housing Revenue Account and their market sale value, and assurance that the publication of this information is not intended to suggest that tenancies should end to realise the market value of properties.
- 40. The valuation data and information referred to in paragraph 39 must be published in the following format:

For each postal sector level, the data should be classified within set bands of value.
 Authorities must set their valuation bands within the general parameters set out in the table below, in light of the local characteristics of the housing market in their area, in order to ensure that valuation data published by all authorities is consistent to understand:

Valuation Band Range	Intervening Band Values
<£50,000-£99,999	6 Bands of £10,000
£100,000-£299,999	10 Bands of £20,000
£300,000-£499,999	4 Bands of £50,000
£500,000-£999,999	5 Bands of £100,000
£1,000,000-£2,999,999	5 Bands of £500,000

- authorities should ensure that any band should only include values that fall within the lowest band parameters (i.e. not give a top value band). If this is the case, the lowest and highest band should be further disaggregated
- authorities should bear in mind that it is likely that the numbers of properties in the lowest and highest bands will be low, leading to potential disclosure problems. The protocol to address this issue is set out in paragraphs 15 to 18
- for each postal sector level, within the set band of value, the data should indicate:
  - the total number of dwellings
  - the aggregate value of the dwellings and their mean value, using both Existing Use Value for Social Housing and market value, and
  - the percentage of the dwellings that are occupied and the percentage that are vacant
- authorities must publish data for both tenanted and vacant dwellings
- 41. An example of how the data specified in paragraph in paragraphs 39 and 40 could be presented is included at annex C.

	Applicable to Bridgnorth Town Council
Grants to voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations	Yes
42. Local authorities must publish details of all grants to voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations. This can be achieved by either:	
<ul> <li>tagging and hence specifically identifying transactions which relate to voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations within published data on expenditure over £500 or published procurement information, or</li> <li>by publishing a separate list or register.</li> </ul>	

	43. For each identified grant, the following information must be published as a minimum:	Yes to all
	<ul> <li>date the grant was awarded</li> <li>time period for which the grant has been given</li> <li>local authority department which awarded the grant</li> <li>beneficiary</li> <li>beneficiary's registration number24</li> <li>summary of the purpose of the grant, and</li> <li>amount.</li> </ul>	
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	Applicable to Bridgnorth Town Council
Organisation chart	Yes
44. Local authorities must publish an organisation chart covering staff in the top three levels of the organisation25. The following information must be included for each member of staff included in the chart:	
<ul> <li>grade</li> <li>job title</li> <li>local authority department and team</li> <li>whether permanent or temporary staff</li> <li>contact details</li> <li>salary in £5,000 brackets, consistent with the details published under paragraph 48, and</li> <li>salary ceiling (the maximum salary for the grade).</li> </ul>	

	Applicable to Bridgnorth Town Council
Trade union facility time	Not applicable
<ul> <li>45. Local authorities must publish the following information on trade union facility time:</li> <li>total number (absolute number and full time equivalent) of staff who are union representatives (including general, learning and health and safety representatives)</li> <li>total number (absolute number and full time equivalent) of union representatives who devote at least 50 per cent of their time to union duties</li> <li>names of all trade unions represented in the local authority</li> <li>a basic estimate of spending on unions (calculated as the number of full time equivalent days spent on union duties multiplied by the average salary), and</li> <li>a basic estimate of spending on unions as a percentage of the total pay bill (calculated as the number of full time equivalent days spent on union duties multiplied by the average salary divided by the total pay bill).</li> </ul>	Trade Union Representatives are al Shropshire Council.  Any employee can join a Trade Union.
	Applicable to Bridgnorth Town Council
Parking account	Not applicable – Highway Authority
<ul> <li>46. Local authorities must publish on their website, or place a link on their website to this data if published elsewhere:</li> <li>a breakdown of income and expenditure on the authority's parking account38 39. The breakdown of income must include details of revenue collected from on-street parking, off-street parking and Penalty Charge Notices, and</li> <li>a breakdown of how the authority has spent a surplus on its parking account38 40.</li> </ul>	

#### **Parking spaces**

47. Local authorities must publish the number of marked out controlled on and off-street parking spaces within their area, or an estimate of the number of spaces where controlled parking space is not marked out in individual parking bays or spaces.

#### **Senior salaries**

- 48. Local authorities are already required to publish, under the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011 (Statutory Instrument 2015/234) 41:
  - the number of employees whose remuneration in that year was at least £50,000 in brackets of £5,000
  - details of remuneration and job title of certain senior employees whose salary is at least £50,000, and
  - employees whose salaries are £150,000 or more must also be identified by name.
- 49. In addition to this requirement, local authorities must place a link on their website to these published data or place the data itself on their website, together with a list of responsibilities (for example, the services and functions they are responsible for, budget held and number of staff) and details of bonuses and 'benefits-in-kind', for all employees whose salary exceeds £50,000. The key differences between the requirements under this Code and the Regulations referred to above is the addition of a list of responsibilities, the inclusion of bonus details for all senior employees whose salary exceeds £50,000 and publication of the data on the authority's website.

#### Not applicable

Yes

#### Constitution

50. Local authorities are already required to make their Constitution available for inspection at their offices under section 9P of the Local Government Act 2000. Local authorities must also, under this Code, publish their Constitution on their website. Relevant to Principal Authorities e.g. Shropshire Council.

#### Pay multiple

- 51. Section 38 of the Localism Act 2011 requires local authorities to produce Pay Policy Statements, which should include the authority's policy on pay dispersion the relationship between remuneration of chief officers and the remuneration of other staff. Guidance produced under section 40 of that Act 42, recommends that the pay multiple is included in these statements as a way of illustrating the authority's approach to pay dispersion.
- 52. Local authorities must, under this Code, publish the pay multiple on their website, defined as the ratio between the highest paid taxable earnings for the given year (including base salary, variable pay, bonuses, allowances and the cash value of any benefits-in-kind) and the median earnings figure of the whole of the authority's workforce. The measure must:
- Cover all elements of remuneration that can be valued (e.g. taxable earnings for the given year, including salary, variable pay, bonuses, allowances and the cash value of any benefit-in-kind)
- Use the median earnings figure as the denominator, which should be that of all
  employees of the local authority on a fixed date each year, coinciding with reporting
  at the end of the financial year, and
- Exclude changes in pension benefits, which due their variety and complexity cannot be accurately included in any multiple disclosure

#### Fraud

- 53. Local authorities must publish the following information about their counter fraud work31:
  - number of occasions they use powers under the Prevention of Social Housing Fraud (Power to Require Information) (England) Regulations 2014 44, or similar powers 45
  - total number (absolute and full time equivalent) of employees undertaking investigations and prosecutions of fraud
  - total number (absolute and full time equivalent) of professionally accredited counter fraud specialists
  - total amount spent by the authority on the investigation and prosecution of fraud, and
  - total number of fraud cases investigated.

	Applicable to Bridgnorth Town Council
Part 2.3: Information to be published once only	Not Applicable

#### **Waste contracts**

54. Local authorities must publish details of their existing waste collection contracts, in line with the details contained in paragraph 27. Local authorities must publish this information at the same time as they first publish quarterly procurement information under paragraphs 27, 31 and 32 of this Code.

# Part 2.4: Method of publication – website, email and form

55. Public data should be published in a format and under a licence that allows open reuse, including for commercial and research activities, in order to maximise value to the public. The Open Government Licence published by the National Archives should be used as the recommended standard. Where any copyright or data ownership concerns exist with public data these should be made clear. Data covered by Part 2 of this Code must be published in open and machine-readable formats (further information about machine-readable formats can be found in Part 3.2).

# Part 3: Information recommended for publication

56. Part 2 of this Code set out details of the minimum data that local authorities must publish. The Government believes that in principle all data held and managed by local authorities should be made available to local people unless there are specific sensitivities to doing so. Therefore, it encourages local authorities to go much further in publishing the data they hold, recognising the benefits of sharing that data for local people, more effective service delivery and better policy making. Part 3 of this Code sets out details of data that the Government recommends local authorities publish.

# Part 3.1: Information recommended for publication

- 57. Data covered by this section includes:
  - expenditure data (see paragraph 58)
  - procurement information (see paragraphs 59 and 60)
  - local authority land (see paragraph 61 and 62)
  - parking spaces (see paragraphs 63 and 64)
  - organisation chart (see paragraph 65)
  - grants to voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations (see paragraphs 66 and 67), and
  - fraud (see paragraph 68).

	Applicable to Bridgnorth Town Council
Expenditure data	
58. It is recommended that local authorities go further than the minimum publication requirements set out in Part 2 and:	
<ul> <li>publish information on a monthly instead of quarterly basis, or ideally, as soon as it becomes available and therefore known to the authority (commonly known as 'real-time' publication)</li> </ul>	• Yes
<ul> <li>publish details of all transactions that exceed £250 instead of £500. For each transaction the details that should be published remain as in paragraph 24</li> </ul>	Not applicable
<ul> <li>publish all transactions on all corporate credit cards, charge cards and procurements, including those that are not a Government Procurement Card. For each transaction the details that should be published remain as set out in paragraph 25</li> </ul>	Not applicable
<ul> <li>publish the total amount spent on remuneration over the period being reported on, and</li> </ul>	• Yes
<ul> <li>classify purpose of expenditure using the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy Service Reporting Code of Practice to enable comparability between local authorities.</li> </ul>	Not applicable     Bridgnorth Town Council does not     provide services which principal     authorities have to do by law

#### **Procurement information**

- 59. It is recommended that local authorities place on Contracts Finder 46, as well as any other local portal, every invitation to tender or invitation to quote for contracts to provide goods and/or services with a value that exceeds £10,000. For each invitation, the details that should be published are the same as those set out in paragraph 26.
- 60. It is recommended that local authorities should go further than the minimum publication requirements set out in Part 2 and publish:
  - information on a monthly instead of quarterly basis, or ideally, as soon as it is generated and therefore becomes available (commonly known as 'real-time' publication)

- every invitation to tender for contracts to provide goods and/or services with a value that exceeds £500 instead of £5,000. The details that should be published are the same as those set out in paragraph 31
- details of invitations to quote where there has not been a formal invitation to tender. The details that should be published are the same as those set out in paragraph 31
- all contracts in their entirety where the value of the contract exceeds £5,000 47
- company registration number at Companies House
- details of invitations to tender or invitations to quote that are likely to be issued in the next twelve months. The details that should be published are the same as those set out in paragraph 31
- details of the geographical (eg. by ward) coverage of contracts entered into by the local authority
- details of performance against contractual key performance indicators, and
- information disaggregated by voluntary and community sector category (eg. whether it is registered with Companies House, Charity or Charitable Incorporated Organisation, Community Interest Company, Industrial and Provident Society, Housing Association, etc).

#### Local authority land

61. It is recommended that local authorities should go further than the minimum publication requirements set out in Part 2 and publish information on a monthly instead of annual basis, or ideally, as soon as it becomes available and therefore known to the authority (commonly known as 'real-time' publication). It is also recommended that local authorities should publish all the information possible on Electronic Property Information Mapping Service.

Documentation for all procurements valued at over £10,000 is stored on Contracts Finder for public viewing as part of government's transparency commitment. <a href="https://online.contractsfinder.businesslink.gov.uk/">https://online.contractsfinder.businesslink.gov.uk/</a>

35 Where a contract runs into several hundreds of pages or more, a local authority should publish a summary of the contract or sections of the contract, if this would be more helpful to local people and businesses.

- 62. It is further recommended that local authorities also go further than the minimum publication requirements set out in paragraph 37 by publishing, alongside them in one place, the following information:
  - size of the asset measured in Gross Internal Area (m²) for buildings or hectares
    for land, in accordance with the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors Code of
    Measuring Practice. The Gross Internal Area is the area of a building measured
    to the internal face of the perimeter walls at each floor level. Local authorities
    using Net Internal Area (m²) should convert measurements to Gross Internal
    Area using appropriate conversion factors<sub>36</sub> and state the conversion factor used
  - services offered from the asset using the services listed in the Effective Services
     Delivery government service function list
     http://doc.esd.org.uk/FunctionList/1.00.html (listing up to five main services)
  - reason for holding asset such as, it is occupied by the local authority or it is providing a service on the authority's behalf, it is an investment property, it supports economic development (eg. provision of small businesses or incubator

- space), it is surplus to the authority's requirements, it is awaiting development, it is under construction, it provides infrastructure or it is a community asset
- whether or not the asset is either one which is an asset in the authority's ownership that is listed under Part 5 Chapter 3 of the Localism Act 2011 (assets of community value) and/or an asset which the authority is actively seeking to transfer to the community
- total building operation (revenue) costs as defined in the corporate value for money indicators for public services
- required maintenance the cost to bring the property from its present state up to
  the state reasonably required by the authority to deliver the service and/or to
  meet statutory or contract obligations and maintain it at that standard. This
  should exclude improvement projects but include works necessary to comply
  with new legislation (eg. asbestos and legionella)
- functional suitability rating using the scale:
  - good performing well and operating efficiently (supports the needs of staff and the delivery of services)
  - satisfactory performing well but with minor problems (generally supports the needs of staff and the delivery of services)
  - poor showing major problems and/or not operating optimally (impedes the performance off staff and/or the delivery of services)
  - o unsuitable does not support or actually impedes the delivery of services
- energy performance rating as stated on the Display Energy Certificate under the Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007.

#### Parking spaces

- 63. It is recommended that local authorities should publish the number of:
  - free parking spaces available in the local authority's area and which are provided directly by the local authority, and
  - parking spaces where charges apply that are available in the local authority's area and which are provided directly by the local authority.
- 64. Where parking space is not marked out in individual parking bays or spaces, local authorities should estimate the number of spaces available for the two categories in paragraph 63.

#### **Organisation chart**

- 65. It is recommended that local authorities should go further than the minimum publication requirements set out in Part 2 and publish:
  - charts including all employees of the local authority whose salary exceeds £50,000
  - the salary band for each employee included in the chart(s), and
  - information about current vacant posts, or signpost vacancies that are going to be advertised in the future.

An organisation chart will have one employee on who earns over £50,000.

#### Grants to voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations

- 66. It is recommended that local authorities should go further than the minimum publication requirements set out in Part 2 and publish information on a monthly instead of annual basis where payments are made more frequently than a single annual payment, or ideally, as soon as the data becomes available and therefore known to the authority (commonly known as 'real-time' publication).
- 67. It is further recommended that local authorities publish information disaggregated by voluntary and community sector category (eg. whether it is registered with Companies House, charity or charitable incorporated organisation, community interest company, industrial and provident society, housing association, etc).

#### Fraud

- 68. It is recommended that local authorities should go further than the minimum publication requirements set out in Part 2 and publish:
  - total number of cases of irregularity investigated
  - total number of occasions on which a) fraud and b) irregularity was identified
  - total monetary value of a) the fraud and b) the irregularity that was detected, and
  - total monetary value of a) the fraud and b) the irregularity that was recovered.

# Part 3.2: Method of publication

context

69. The Government endorses the five step journey to a fully open format:

One star

Available on the web (whatever format) but with an open license

Two star

As per one star plus available machine-readable structures data (e.g. excel instead of a screen image of a table)

Three star

As for two star plus a non-proprietary format (e.g. CSV and XML)

Four star

All of the above plus use open standards from the World Wide Web Consortium (such as RDF and SPARLQL21)

Five star

All the above plus links an organisation's data to others' data to provide

70. The Government recommends that local authorities publish data in three star formats where this is suitable and appropriate 50, alongside open and machine-readable format, within six months of this Code being issued.

#### Adopted:

March 2015 May 2015 May 2016