



**BARNSTAPLE TOWN COUNCIL**

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY CODE**  
**PUBLISHED INFORMATION**

The Government published the Local Government Transparency Code in October 2014.

The intention of the Code is to increase transparency in the publication of public sector data and particularly around how public money is being used, in order to allow local people to hold local authorities to account over how their council tax is spent and the decisions that are taken on their behalf.

Part 2 of the Code sets out the recommended practice for the publication of information by town and parish councils with a gross annual income or expenditure exceeding £200,000

Whilst the Code is not mandatory for town and parish councils, Barnstaple Town Council is committed to being open and transparent in its decision making processes and in spending tax payers' money.

The Council therefore fully supports the principles of the Code and will endeavour to meet the publication requirements set out in Part 2 as far as is practicable and relevant to the Council.

One of the key requirements of the Code is the publication of all items of expenditure over £500. The Council already publishes this information via the website.

In addition, Part 2 of the Code requires local authorities to go further by giving easy open access to following information:-

- Senior officer salaries;
- Staff organisation chart;
- The 'pay multiple' i.e. the ratio between the highest salary and the average salary of the workforce;
- Details of contracts and tenders over £5,000;
- Grants and donations to the local community;

- Constitution;
- Fraud information;
- Details of Council land and buildings.

In accordance with other statutory requirements and regulations, the Council should also publish the following information:-

- Statement of Accounts;
- Annual Governance Statement;
- Member allowances and expenses;
- Parish Performance Plan;
- Annual Audit Letter and Audit Completion Report from the External Auditor;
- Information on the Council's financial position;
- Information on the democratic running of the Council including agendas and minutes.

Much of the information referred to above is already published by the Town Council and included on the website.

The Council is striving to meet the requirements of Part 2 of the Local Government Transparency Code in full and where information is not currently available on the website, for example more detailed information on Council land and property, and information on procurement, contracts and tenders over £5,000, efforts are being made to ensure that this data is published in the future.

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