

# Document Retention, Archive and Destruction Policy Compliance Statement

Reference: Local Council Administration' by Charles Arnold Baker (8th Edition).

- To meet requirements under the Data Protection, Freedom of Information Act and Human Rights legislation
- To prevent premature destruction of records that need to be retained for a specified period to satisfy legal, financial and other requirements
- To provide consistency in the destruction of records

## **DESTRUCTION**

- Backup copies stored on alternative media must be destroyed at the same time
- Information held in more than one media, including the website, should be destroyed at the same time
- Whenever there is a possibility of litigation, the records and information should not be amended or disposed of until the threat of litigation has been removed
- Confidential or sensitive data **must** be shredded. All other documents should also be shredded.
- Records which are duplicated, unimportant or only of a short-term value should be destroyed in the normal course of business

## **RETENTION**

- Records for permanent retention should be transferred to the Records Office or held by solicitors as appropriate.

<b>TYPE OF RECORD</b>	<b>MINIMUM RETENTION PERIOD</b>	<b>REASON</b>
<b>FINANCIAL RECORDS</b>		
Receipts and Payment Ledger/spreadsheets	Indefinitely.	Archive
Receipt books of all kind	6 years	VAT
Paid Invoices	6 years	Retain for VAT purposes. Limitation Act 1980 (as amended)
Bank Reconciliation	Quarterly statement kept with minutes	Minute record
Bank Statements	Last completed audit year	Audit
Bank paying-in books	Last completed audit year	Audit
Cheque book stubs	Last completed audit year	Audit
Cheque lists	Last completed audit year	Consistency
Returned/cancelled cheques	Last completed audit year	Consistency
VAT records	6 years	VAT
Budget	6 years (electronic/hard copies filed within minutes)	Reference
Quotations and tenders	6 years	Limitation Act 1980 (as amended)
Audited Annual Return	Indefinitely	Archive as per External Auditors
Other Audit documentation incl. correspondence	6 years	As per External Auditors
Investments	Indefinite	Audit, Management
Scales of fees and charges	5 years	Management
<b>INSURANCE RECORDS</b>		
Certificate of Employers' Liability Insurance	40 years from date on which insurance commenced or was renewed	Although no longer a legal requirement the insurers/legal advisers say 40 years still advisable.
Insurance Documentation including policies	3 years	To cover any claims under Public Liability Insurance, as per insurers. A permanent record of insurance company names and

		policy numbers to be retained.
Insurance Claims (public/employer's liability)	6 years	Recorded information
<b>PAYROLL RECORDS</b>		
Payslips/expenses	6 years	Tax
Tax and NI Records (including P11 and P35)	6 years	Tax claims ( <i>HMRC changing to 4 from 2012</i> )
Tax code notifications	6 years	Consistency
Timesheets/Overtime Records	Last completed audit year	Audit
<b>PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION</b>		
Employee letters of appointment	6 years after departure from employment	Consistency
Employee contracts	6 years after departure from employment	Consistency
All other records	6 years after departure from employment	Consistency
<b>RECRUITMENT</b>		
Selection of an individual/interview record	1 year	Reference
Unsuccessful Applicants' Employment Application forms/references	1 year	Reference
<b>PLANNING DOCUMENTS</b>		
Planning Applications	6 months after the Planning Authority decision made	Reference
Planning Application lists	Retain indefinitely	Historical reference
Hand written responses from Councillors/Planning Committee members to planning applications	Destroy 6 months after the Planning Authority decision made, if a meeting was not held to discuss the application	Reference
Planning decision slips	6 months after Planning Authority decision	Reference
Appeal decision slips	6 months after Planning Authority decision	Historical reference
Structure Plans, Local Plans and similar documents	To be retained as long as they are in force	Reference

<b>LEGAL DOCUMENTATION</b>		
Deeds, conveyances and other legal documentation relating to ownership ie Title Deeds and leases.	Indefinitely	Audit, Management. Limitation Act 1980. Lodged with Solicitors
Trust deeds and schemes	Indefinitely	Audit, Management. Limitation Act 1980. Lodged with Solicitors
Contracts not executed as a Deed	6 years	Limitation Act 1980 (as amended)
Any documentation which may be subject to legal action. (Where item falls into more than one category retain for longest period stated)	Retain until the threat of litigation has been removed. Minimum periods for retention: Negligence – 6 yrs; Defamation – 1 yr; Sums recoverable by statute – 6 yrs; Personal injury – 3 yrs; to recover land – 12 yrs; rent – 6 years.	Limitation Act 1980 (as amended)
<b>ADMINISTRATION RECORDS</b>		
Draft documents	Destroy once the final version of the document has been approved, unless required as a record of the development of a policy initiative	Management
Hand written notes taken by clerk with a view to producing minutes	Destroy once the minutes have been approved as correct and a true record	For clarification at following meeting
Approved Minutes	Indefinitely	Archive
Reports	6 years after closure of file	Consistency
Back up tapes/records	Rotate to eliminate storing of materials which should have been destroyed	Management
Asset Register	Current and last completed audit version	Audit and Management
Correspondence/General Admin files (see Historical Records below)	6 years (see correspondence kept for legal purposes above) Records which are duplicated, unimportant or only of a short-term value should be destroyed in the normal course of business	Management
Emails	To be dealt with in the same way as manual records. Destroy routine/trivial emails and those where hard copies have been taken	Management
Historical Records (manual and	Archive after 30 years. (Files to be closed after 5	Public Records Act 1958. Archive

electronically held)	year)	
Personal Data	Kept for no longer than is necessary for the purpose for which it is held	Data Protection Act
Register of Members' Interests	Whilst a member	Publication Scheme
Risk Assessment	Information retained	Reference
Complaints	3 years	Reference
FOI Disclosure log	Destroy each record 5 years after record is opened	Management
Details of Request made under FOI Act	Destroy as above	Management
Disposal Schedules	Indefinitely	Management
Information from other bodies i.e. County Associations, NALC and other numerous bodies	Retain for as long as useful and relevant	Management
Magazines and Journals	Any published works in print as defined by the Legal Deposit Libraries Act 2003, are to be delivered to the British Library Board. Items published by other bodies to be retained as long as useful and relevant	Management

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