



Whitchurch Town Council - Appendix A: List of Documents for Retention or Disposal

Document	Minimum Retention Period	Reason	Location Retained	Disposal
Minutes	Indefinite	Archive	Website and files	Original signed paper copies of Council minutes of meetings must be kept indefinitely in safe storage. At regular intervals of not more than 5 years they must be archived and deposited with the Unitary Authority
Agendas	5 years	Management	Website and files	Bin (shred confidential waste)
Accident/incident reports	20 years	Potential claims	Accident book & files	Confidential waste. A list will be kept of those documents disposed of to meet the requirements of the GDPR regulations.
Scales of fees and charges	6 years	Management	Files & website	Bin
Receipt and payment accounts	Indefinite	Archive	Files & accounts system	N/A
Receipt books of all kinds	6 years	VAT	Files	Bin
Bank statements including deposit/savings accounts	Last completed audit year	Audit	Files	Confidential waste
Bank paying-in books	Last completed audit year	Audit	Files	Confidential waste
Cheque book stubs	Last completed audit year	Audit	Files	Confidential waste

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Quotations and tenders	6 years	Limitation Act 1980 (as amended)	Files / Server	Confidential waste. A list will be kept of those documents disposed of to meet the requirements of the GDPR regulations.
Paid invoices	6 years	VAT	Files	Confidential waste
Paid cheques	6 years	Limitation Act 1980 (as amended)	Files / Accounting system	Confidential waste
VAT records	6 years generally but 20 years for VAT on rents	VAT	Files	Confidential waste
Petty cash, postage and telephone books	6 years	Tax, VAT, Limitation Act 1980 (as amended)	Files	Confidential waste
Timesheets	Last completed audit year 3 years	Audit (requirement) Personal injury (best practice)	Files / server	Bin
Wages books/payroll	12 years	Superannuation	Files / Accounting system	Confidential waste
Insurance policies	While valid (but see next two items below)	Management	Files / server	Bin
Insurance company names and policy numbers	Indefinite	Management	Files / server	N/A
Certificates for insurance against liability for employees	40 years from date on which insurance commenced or was renewed	The Employers' Liability (Compulsory Insurance) Regulations 1998 (SI 2753) Management	Files / server	Bin
Town Park equipment inspection reports	21 years		Files / server	

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Investments	Indefinite	Audit, Management	Files / server	N/A
Title deeds, leases, agreements, contracts	Indefinite	Audit, Management	Files / server	N/A
Members' allowances register	6 years	Tax, Limitation Act 1980 (as amended)	Files / server	Confidential waste. A list will be kept of those documents disposed of to meet the requirements of the GDPR regulations.
Information from other bodies e.g. circulars from county associations, NALC, principal authorities	Retained for as long as it is useful and relevant		Files / server	Bin
Local/historical information	Indefinite – to be securely kept for benefit of the Parish	Councils may acquire records of local interest and accept gifts or records of general and local interest in order to promote the use for such records (defined as materials in written or other form setting out facts or events or otherwise recording information).	Whitchurch Heritage Centre	N/A

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Magazines and journals	<p>Council may wish to keep its own publications</p> <p>For others retain for as long as they are useful and relevant.</p>	<p>The Legal Deposit Libraries Act 2003 (the 2003 Act) requires a local council which after 1st February 2004 has published works in print (this includes a pamphlet, magazine or newspaper, a map, plan, chart or table) to deliver, at its own expense, a copy of them to the British Library Board (which manages and controls the British Library). Printed works as defined by the 2003 Act published by a local council therefore constitute materials which the British Library holds.</p>	Files / server	Bin if applicable
Record-keeping				
<p>To ensure records are easily accessible it is necessary to comply with the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A list of files stored in cabinets will be kept 	<p>The electronic files will be backed up periodically on a portable hard drive and also in the cloud-based programme supplied by</p>	Management	Backed up to a 1TB removable hard disk on a daily basis.	Documentation no longer required will be disposed of, ensuring any confidential documents are destroyed as

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Electronic files will be saved using relevant file names 	the Council's IT company.	Management		confidential waste. A list will be kept of those documents disposed of to meet the requirements of the GDPR regulations.
General correspondence	Unless it relates to specific categories outlined in the policy, correspondence, both paper and electronic, should be kept. Records should be kept for as long as they are needed for reference or accountability purposes, to comply with regulatory requirements or to protect legal and other rights and interests.	Management	Files / server	Bin (shred confidential waste) A list will be kept of those documents disposed of to meet the requirements of the GDPR regulations.
Correspondence relating to staff	If related to Audit, see relevant sections above. Should be kept securely and personal data in relation to staff should not be kept for longer than is necessary for the purpose it was held. Likely time limits for tribunal claims	After an employment relationship has ended, a council may need to retain and access staff records of former staff for the purpose of giving references, payment of tax, national insurance contributions and	Files / server	Confidential waste A list will be kept of those documents disposed of to meet the requirements of the GDPR regulations.

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	between 3–6 months Recommend this period be for 3 years	pensions, and in respect of any related legal claims made against the council.		
<p>Documents from legal matters, negligence and other torts</p> <p>Most legal proceedings are governed by the Limitation Act 1980 (as amended). The 1980 Act provides that legal claims may not be commenced after a specified period. Where the limitation periods are longer than other periods specified the documentation should be kept for the longer period specified. Some types of legal proceedings may fall within two or more categories.</p> <p>If in doubt, keep for the longest of the three limitation periods.</p>				
Negligence	6 years		Files / server	Confidential waste. A list will be kept of those documents disposed of to meet the requirements of the GDPR regulations.
Defamation	1 year		Files / server	Confidential waste. A list will be kept of those documents disposed of to meet the requirements of the GDPR regulations.
Contract	6 years		Files / server	Confidential waste. A list will be kept of those documents disposed of to meet the requirements of the GDPR regulations.
Leases	12 years		Files / server	Confidential waste.

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Sums recoverable by statute	6 years		Files / server	Confidential waste.
Personal injury	3 years		Files / server	Confidential waste.
To recover land	12 years		Files / server	Confidential waste.
Rent	6 years		Files / server	Confidential waste.
Breach of trust	None		Files / server	Confidential waste.
Trust deeds	Indefinite		Files / server	N/A
For Civic Centre, Recreation Grounds				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application to hire • Invoices • Record of tickets issued 	6 years	VAT	Files / server / accounting system	Confidential waste A list will be kept of those documents disposed of to meet the requirements of the GDPR regulations.
Lettings diaries	Electronic files linked to accounts	VAT	Files / server	N/A
Terms and Conditions	6 years	Management	Files / server	Bin
Event Monitoring Forms	6 years unless required for claims, insurance or legal purposes	Management	Files / server	Bin. A list will be kept of those documents disposed of to meet the requirements of the GDPR regulations.

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For Burial Grounds				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Register of fees collected • Register of burials • Register of purchased graves • Register/plan of grave spaces • Register of memorials • Applications for interment • Applications for right to erect memorials • Disposal certificates • Copy certificates of grant of exclusive right of burial 	Indefinite	Archives, Local Authorities Cemeteries Order 1977 (SI 204)	Files / accounting system / Registers	N/A
Planning Papers				
Applications	1 year	Management	Server / file	Bin
Appeals	1 year unless significant development	Management	Server / file	Bin
Trees	1 year	Management	Server / file	Bin
Local Development Plans	Retained as long as in force	Reference	Server / file	Bin

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Local Plans	Retained as long as in force	Reference	Server / file	Bin
Town/Neighbourhood Plans	Indefinite – final adopted plans	Historical purposes	Server / File / Whitchurch Heritage Centre	N/A
For CCTV				
Daily notes	Daily	Data protection	CCTV system	Confidential waste
Observation sheets	3 years	Data protection	CCTV system / files	Confidential waste
Stats	3 years	Data protection	Files	Confidential waste
Signing in sheets	3 years	Management	Files	Confidential waste
Review requests	3 years	Data protection	Files	Confidential waste
Discs – master and working	For as long as required	Data protection	Held by WMP	Confidential waste
Internal Operations Procedure Manual	Destroy on renewal Review annually	Management		Confidential waste
Code of Practice	Destroy on renewal Review annually	Management		Confidential waste
Photographs/digital prints	31 days	Data protection	Held by WMP or if required for case, by Town Clerk	Confidential waste