

Alsager Town Council

Appendix A: List of Documents for Retention or Disposal

Document	Minimum Retention Period	Reason	Location Retained	Disposal
Minutes	Indefinite	Archive	Town Council Offices	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 Higher Authority
NOTE: The Town Council currently stores all of its Minutes in the Town Council offices and therefore operating outside of the above policy. Investigations are being undertaken to look at scanning all of the Minutes onto the Councils IT system, which will then be stored at Cheshire Easts Archiving.				
Agendas	10 years	Management	Town Council Offices	Confidential waste
Accident/incident reports	20 years	Potential claims	Town Council Offices	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	Town Council Offices	Bin
Receipt and payment accounts (contained within Minutes)	Indefinite	Archive	Town Council Offices	N/A
Receipt books of all kinds	6 years	VAT	Town Council Offices	Bin

Document	Minimum Retention Period	Reason	Location Retained	Disposal
Bank statements including deposit/savings accounts	Last completed audit year	Audit	Town Council Offices	Confidential waste
Bank paying-in books	Last completed audit year	Audit	Town Council Offices	Confidential waste
Cheque book stubs	Last completed audit year	Audit	Town Council Offices	Confidential waste
Quotations and tenders	6 years	Limitation Act 1980 (as amended)	Town Council Offices	Confidential waste A list will be kept of those documents disposed of to meet the requirements of the GDPR regulations.
Paid invoices and Petty Cash Slips	6 years	VAT	Town Council Offices	Confidential waste
Paid cheques	6 years	Limitation Act 1980 (as amended)	Town Council Offices	Confidential waste
VAT records	6 years generally but 20 years for VAT on rents	VAT	Town Council Offices	Confidential waste
Timesheets	Last completed audit year 3 years	Audit (requirement) Personal injury (best practice)	Town Council Offices	Bin
Wages books/payroll	12 years	Superannuation	Town Council Offices	Confidential waste
Insurance policies	While valid (but see next two items below)	Management	Town Council Offices	Bin
Insurance company names and policy numbers	Indefinite	Management	Town Council Offices	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	Town Council Offices	Bin
Investments	Indefinite	Audit, Management	Town Council Offices	N/A

Document	Minimum Retention Period	Reason	Location Retained	Disposal
Title deeds, leases, agreements, contracts	Indefinite	Audit, Management	Town Council Offices	N/A
Members' allowances register	6 years	Tax, Limitation Act 1980 (as amended)	Town Council Offices	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		Town Council Offices	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).	Town Council Offices	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>	Town Council Offices	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 every night on a portable hard drive and also in the cloud-based programme supplied by the Council's IT company.</p>	Management	Town Council Offices	<p>Documentation no longer required will be disposed of, ensuring any confidential documents are destroyed as confidential waste.</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Electronic files will be saved using relevant file names 				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	Town Council Offices	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 between 3–6 months Recommend this period be for 3 years	After an employment relationship has ended, a council may need to retain and access staff records for former staff for the purpose of giving references, payment of tax, national insurance contributions and pensions, and in respect of any related legal claims made against the council.	Town Council Offices	Confidential waste A list will be kept of those documents disposed of to meet the requirements of the GDPR regulations.

Document	Minimum Retention Period	Reason	Location Retained	Disposal
	<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		Town Council Offices	Confidential waste. A list will be kept of those documents disposed of to meet the requirements of the GDPR regulations.
Defamation	1 year		Town Council Offices	Confidential waste. A list will be kept of those documents disposed of to meet the requirements of the GDPR regulations.
Contract	6 years		Town Council Offices	Confidential waste. A list will be kept of those documents disposed of to meet the requirements of the GDPR regulations.
Leases	12 years		Town Council Offices	Confidential waste.
Sums recoverable by statute	6 years		Town Council Offices	Confidential waste.
Personal injury	3 years		Town Council Offices	Confidential waste.
To recover land	12 years		Town Council Offices	Confidential waste.
Rent	6 years		Town Council Offices	Confidential waste.
Breach of trust	None		Town Council Offices	Confidential waste.
Trust deeds	Indefinite		Town Council Offices	N/A
For Halls, Centres, Recreation Grounds				

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application to hire • Invoices • Record of tickets issued 	6 years	VAT	Town Council Offices	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	Town Council Offices	N/A
Terms and Conditions	6 years	Management	Town Council Offices	Bin
Event Monitoring Forms	6 years unless required for claims, insurance or legal purposes	Management	Town Council Offices	Bin. A list will be kept of those documents disposed of to meet the requirements of the GDPR regulations.
	For Allotments			
Register and plans	Indefinite	Audit, Management	Town Council Offices	N/A
Minutes	Indefinite	Audit, Management	Town Council Offices	N/A
Legal papers	Indefinite	Audit, Management	Town Council Offices	N/A
	Planning Papers			
Applications	2 years	Management	Town Council Offices	Bin
Appeals	2 years unless significant development	Management	Town Council Offices	Bin
Trees	1 year	Management	Town Council Offices	Bin
Local Development Plans	Retained as long as in force	Reference	Town Council Offices	Bin
Local Plans	Retained as long as in force	Reference	Town Council Offices	Bin
Town/Neighbourhood Plans	Indefinite – final adopted plans	Historical purposes	Town Council Offices	N/A