

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

Document	Minimum Retention Period	Reason	Location Retained	Disposal
Minutes	Indefinite	Archive	Town Hall	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
Agendas	5 years	Management	Town Hall	Bin (shred confidential waste)
Accident/incident reports	20 years	Potential claims	Town Hall	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 Hall	Bin
Receipt and payment accounts	Indefinite	Archive	Town Hall	N/A
Receipt books of all kinds	6 years	VAT	Town Hall	Bin
Bank statements including deposit/savings accounts	Last completed audit year	Audit	Town Hall	Confidential waste
Bank paying-in books	Last completed audit year	Audit	Town Hall	Confidential waste
Cheque book stubs	Last completed audit year	Audit	Town Hall	Confidential waste
Quotations and tenders	6 years	Limitation Act 1980 (as amended)	Town Hall	Confidential waste A list will be kept of those documents disposed of to

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				meet the requirements of the GDPR regulations.
Paid invoices	6 years	VAT	Town Hall	Confidential waste
Paid cheques	6 years	Limitation Act 1980 (as amended)	Town Hall	Confidential waste
VAT records	6 years generally but 20 years for VAT on rents	VAT	Town Hall	Confidential waste
Petty cash, postage and telephone books	6 years	Tax, VAT, Limitation Act 1980 (as amended)	Town Hall	Confidential waste
Timesheets	Last completed audit year 3 years	Audit (requirement) Personal injury (best practice)	Town Hall	Bin
Payroll	12 years	Superannuation	Town Hall	Confidential waste
Insurance policies	While valid (but see next two items below)	Management	Town Hall	Bin
Insurance company names and policy numbers	Indefinite	Management	Town Hall	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 Hall	Bin
Town Park equipment inspection reports	21 years		Town Hall	
Investments	Indefinite	Audit, Management	Town Hall	N/A
Title deeds, leases, agreements, contracts	Indefinite	Audit, Management	Town Hall	N/A
Members' allowances register	6 years	Tax, Limitation Act 1980 (as amended)	Town Hall	Confidential waste. A list will be kept of those documents disposed of to meet the requirements of the GDPR regulations.

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Information from other bodies e.g. circulars from county associations, NALC, principal authorities	Retained for as long as it is useful and relevant			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 Hall/Library	N/A
Magazines and journals	For others retain for as long as they are useful and relevant.	The Legal Deposit Libraries Act 2003 (the 2003 Act) requires a local council which after 1 st 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	Town Hall/Library	Bin if applicable

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		published by a local council therefore constitute materials which the British Library holds.		
	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 • Electronic files will be saved using relevant file names 	The electronic files will be backed up periodically on a portable hard drive and also in the cloud-based programme supplied by the Council's IT company.	Management		<p>Documentation no longer required will be disposed of, ensuring any confidential documents are destroyed as confidential waste.</p> <p>A list will be kept of those documents disposed of to meet the requirements of the GDPR regulations.</p>

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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		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 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 Hall	Confidential waste A list will be kept of those documents disposed of to meet the requirements of the GDPR regulations.

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	<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 Hall	Confidential waste. A list will be kept of those documents disposed of to meet the requirements of the GDPR regulations.
Defamation	1 year		Town Hall	Confidential waste. A list will be kept of those documents disposed of to meet the requirements of the GDPR regulations.
Contract	6 years		Town Hall	Confidential waste. A list will be kept of those documents disposed of to meet the requirements of the GDPR regulations.
Leases	12 years		Town Hall	Confidential waste.
Sums recoverable by statute	6 years		Town Hall	Confidential waste.
Personal injury	3 years		Town Hall	Confidential waste.
To recover land	12 years		Town Hall	Confidential waste.
Rent	6 years		Town Hall	Confidential waste.
Breach of trust	None		Town Hall	Confidential waste.
Trust deeds	Indefinite		Town Hall	N/A
For Halls, Centres, Recreation Grounds				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emails re: hire • Invoices 	6 years	VAT	Town Hall	Confidential waste A list will be kept of those documents disposed of to meet the requirements of

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				the GDPR regulations.
Lettings diaries	1 year	Management	Town Hall	N/A
Terms and Conditions	6 years	Management	Town Hall	Bin
Event Plans	6 years unless required for claims, insurance or legal purposes	Management	Town Hall	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 Hall	N/A
Tenancy Agreements	Indefinite	Audit, Management	Town Hall	N/A
Correspondence	1 year	Management		Confidential waste
	Civic Dinner			
Circulation List	Retain as long as those on list wish to attend	Reference	Town Hall	Confidential waste
	Planning Papers			
Applications	Until determined	Management	Town Hall	Bin
Appeals	Until determined	Management	Town Hall	Bin
Trees	Until determined	Management	Town Hall	Bin
Local Development Plans	Retained as long as in force	Reference	Town Hall	Bin
	Twinning			
Circulation List	Retained as long as those on list wish to be involved	Reference/accommodation requests	Town Hall	Confidential waste
	Christmas Lights			
Window Spotting Competition Entries	Retained until competition is judged	Management	Town Hall	Confidential Waste
List of all donations	1 year	Management	Town Hall	Confidential Waste
List of stall holders	Until after the event	Management	Town Hall	Confidential Waste

Document	Minimum Retention Period	Reason	Location Retained	Disposal
	Library			
Book Requests	1 Day	Fax to Workington	Library	Shred
Join Library Form	1 Day	Fax to Workington	Library	Shred