



East Herts District Council

Data Protection Policy

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1. Introduction

This Policy sets out the obligations of East Hertfordshire District Council (“the Council”) regarding data protection and the rights of data subjects in respect of their personal data under Data Protection Law. “Data Protection Law” means all legislation and regulations in force from time to time regulating the use of personal data and the privacy of electronic communications including, but not limited to, the retained EU law version of the General Data Protection Regulation ((EU) 2016/679) (the “UK GDPR”), as it forms part of the law of England and Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland by virtue of section 3 of the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018, the Data Protection Act 2018, the Privacy and Electronic Communications Regulations 2003 as amended, and any successor legislation.

This Policy sets the Council’s obligations regarding the collection, processing, transfer, storage, and disposal of personal data. The procedures and principles set out herein must be followed at all times by the Council, its employees, councillors, agents, contractors, or other parties working on behalf of the Council, including when working from home.

2. Definitions

“consent”	means the consent of the data subject which must be a freely given, specific, informed, and unambiguous indication of the data subject’s wishes by which they, by a statement or by a clear affirmative action, signify their agreement to the processing of personal data relating to them;
“data controller”	means the natural or legal person or organisation which, alone or jointly with others, determines the purposes and means of the processing of personal data. For the purposes of this Policy, the Council is the data controller of all personal data relating to data subjects;
“data processor”	means a natural or legal person or organisation which processes personal data on behalf of a data controller;
“data subject”	means a living, identified, or identifiable natural person about whom the Council holds personal data;
“EEA”	means the European Economic Area, consisting of all EU Member States, Iceland,

	Liechtenstein, and Norway;
“personal data”	means any information relating to a data subject who can be identified, directly or indirectly, in particular by reference to an identifier such as a name, identification number, location data, an online identifier, or to one or more factors specific to the physical, physiological, genetic, mental, economic, cultural, or social identity of that data subject;
“personal data breach”	means a breach of security leading to the accidental or unlawful destruction, loss, alteration, unauthorised disclosure of, or access to, personal data transmitted, stored, or otherwise processed;
“processing”	means any operation or set of operations performed on personal data or sets of personal data, whether or not by automated means, such as collection, recording, organisation, structuring, storage, adaptation or alteration, retrieval, consultation, use, disclosure by transmission, dissemination or otherwise making available, alignment or combination, restriction, erasure or destruction;
“pseudonymisation”	means the processing of personal data in such a manner that the personal data can no longer be attributed to a specific data subject without the use of additional information, provided that such additional information is kept separately and is subject to technical and organisational measures to ensure that the personal data is not attributed to an identified or identifiable natural person; and
“special category personal data”	means personal data revealing racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, trade union membership, health, sexual life, sexual orientation, biometric, or genetic data.

3. Scope

- 3.1. The Council is committed not only to the letter of the law, but also to the spirit of the law and places high importance on the correct, lawful, and fair handling of all personal data, respecting the legal rights, privacy, and trust of all individuals with whom it deals.
- 3.2. The Council recognises that blended working arrangements and, in particular, home working, are important in providing a better work life balance. While working from home, it remains vitally important to continue protecting personal data and the rights and privacy of individuals, as set out in this Policy.
- 3.3. The role of Data Protection Officer is carried out by the Council's Information Governance and Data Protection Manager. The Data Protection Officer is responsible for administering this Policy and for developing and implementing any applicable related policies, procedures, and/or guidelines.
- 3.4. All line managers and councillors are responsible for ensuring that all employees, agents, contractors, or other parties working on behalf of the Council comply with this Policy and, where applicable, must implement such practices, processes, controls, and training as are reasonably necessary to ensure such compliance. Where possible and appropriate, such measures and, in particular, training, should be made available remotely to staff working from home.
- 3.5. Any questions relating to this Policy or to Data Protection Law should be referred to the Data Protection Officer. In particular, the Data Protection Officer should always be consulted in the following cases:
 - 3.5.1. if there is any uncertainty relating to the lawful basis on which personal data is to be collected, held, and/or processed;
 - 3.5.2. if consent is being relied upon in order to collect, hold, and/or process personal data;
 - 3.5.3. if there is any uncertainty relating to the retention period for any particular type(s) of personal data;
 - 3.5.4. if any new or amended privacy notices or similar privacy-related documentation are required;
 - 3.5.5. if any assistance is required in dealing with the exercise of a data subject's rights (including, but not limited to, the handling of subject access requests);
 - 3.5.6. if a personal data breach (suspected or actual) has occurred;
 - 3.5.7. if there is any uncertainty relating to security measures (whether technical or organisational) required to protect personal data;

- 3.5.8. if there are any questions relating to the implementation and maintenance of security measures in a home working environment;
- 3.5.9. if personal data is to be shared with third parties (whether such third parties are acting as data controllers or data processors);
- 3.5.10. if personal data is to be transferred outside of the UK and there are questions relating to the appropriate safeguard on which to do so;
- 3.5.11. when any significant new processing activity is to be carried out, or significant changes are to be made to existing processing activities, which will require a Data Protection Impact Assessment;
- 3.5.12. when personal data is to be used for purposes different to those for which it was originally collected;
- 3.5.13. if any automated processing, including profiling or automated decision-making, is to be carried out; or
- 3.5.14. if any assistance is required in complying with the law applicable to direct marketing.

4. The Data Protection Principles

4.1 This Policy aims to ensure compliance with Data Protection Law. The UK GDPR sets out the following principles with which any party handling personal data must comply. Data controllers are responsible for, and must be able to demonstrate, such compliance. All personal data must be:

- 4.1.1. processed lawfully, fairly, and in a transparent manner in relation to the data subject;
- 4.1.2. collected for specified, explicit, and legitimate purposes and not further processed in a manner that is incompatible with those purposes. Further processing for archiving purposes in the public interest, scientific or historical research purposes or statistical purposes shall not be considered to be incompatible with the initial purposes;
- 4.1.3. adequate, relevant, and limited to what is necessary in relation to the purposes for which it is processed;
- 4.1.4. accurate and, where necessary, kept up to date. Every reasonable step must be taken to ensure that personal data that is inaccurate, having regard to the purposes for which it is processed, is erased, or rectified without delay;
- 4.1.5. kept in a form which permits identification of data subjects for no longer than is necessary for the purposes for which the personal data is processed. Personal data may be stored for longer periods insofar as the personal data will be processed solely for archiving purposes in the public interest, scientific or historical research

purposes, or statistical purposes, subject to implementation of the appropriate technical and organisational measures required by the UK GDPR in order to safeguard the rights and freedoms of the data subject;

- 4.1.6. processed in a manner that ensures appropriate security of the personal data, including protection against unauthorised or unlawful processing and against accidental loss, destruction, or damage, using appropriate technical or organisational measures.

5. The Rights of Data Subjects

5.1. The UK GDPR sets out the following key rights applicable to data subjects:

- 5.1.1 the right to be informed;
- 5.1.2 the right of access;
- 5.1.3 the right to rectification;
- 5.1.4 the right to erasure (also known as the 'right to be forgotten');
- 5.1.5 the right to restrict processing;
- 5.1.6 the right to data portability;
- 5.1.7 the right to object; and
- 5.1.8 rights with respect to automated decision-making and profiling.

6. Lawful, Fair, and Transparent Data Processing

6.1. Data Protection Law seeks to ensure that personal data is processed lawfully, fairly, and transparently, without adversely affecting the rights of the data subject. Specifically, the processing of personal data shall be lawful if at least one of the following applies:

- 6.1.1. the data subject has given consent to the processing of their personal data for one or more specific purposes;
- 6.1.2. the processing is necessary for the performance of a contract to which the data subject is a party, or in order to take steps at the request of the data subject prior to entering into a contract;
- 6.1.3. the processing is necessary for compliance with a legal obligation to which the data controller is subject (not including contractual obligations);
- 6.1.4. the processing is necessary to protect the vital interests of the data subject or of another natural person;

- 6.1.5. the processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the data controller; or
- 6.1.6. the processing is necessary for the purposes of the legitimate interests pursued by the data controller or by a third party, except where such interests are overridden by the fundamental rights and freedoms of the data subject which require protection of personal data, in particular where the data subject is a child.
- 6.1.7. If the personal data in question is special category personal data at least one of the following conditions must be met:
 - 6.1.7.1. the data subject has given their explicit consent to the processing of such data for one or more specified purposes (unless the law prohibits them from doing so);
 - 6.1.7.2. the processing is necessary for the purpose of carrying out the obligations and exercising specific rights of the data controller or of the data subject in the field of employment, social security, and social protection law (insofar as it is authorised by law);
 - 6.1.7.3. the processing is necessary to protect the vital interests of the data subject or of another natural person where the data subject is physically or legally incapable of giving consent;
 - 6.1.7.4. the data controller is a foundation, association, or other non-profit body with a political, philosophical, religious, or trade union aim, and the processing is carried out in the course of its legitimate activities, provided that the processing relates solely to the members or former members of that body or to persons who have regular contact with it in connection with its purposes and that the personal data is not disclosed outside the body without the consent of the data subjects;
 - 6.1.7.5. the processing relates to personal data which is manifestly made public by the data subject;
 - 6.1.7.6. the processing is necessary for the conduct of legal claims or whenever courts are acting in their judicial capacity;
 - 6.1.7.7. the processing is necessary for substantial public interest reasons, on the basis of law which shall be proportionate to the aim pursued, shall respect the essence of the right to data protection, and shall provide for suitable and specific measures to safeguard the fundamental rights and interests of the data subject;

- 6.1.7.8. the processing is necessary for the purposes of preventative or occupational medicine, for the assessment of the working capacity of an employee, for medical diagnosis, for the provision of health or social care or treatment, or the management of health or social care systems or services on the basis of law or pursuant to a contract with a health professional, subject to further conditions and safeguards set out in Data Protection Law;
- 6.1.7.9. the processing is necessary for public interest reasons in the area of public health, for example, protecting against serious cross-border threats to health or ensuring high standards of quality and safety of health care and of medicinal products or medical devices, on the basis of law which provides for suitable and specific measures to safeguard the rights and freedoms of the data subject (in particular, professional secrecy); or
- 6.1.7.10. the processing is necessary for archiving purposes in the public interest, scientific or historical research purposes, or statistical purposes with a basis in law which shall be proportionate to the aim pursued, respect the essence of the right to data protection, and provide for suitable and specific measures to safeguard the fundamental rights and the interests of the data subject.

7. Consent

- 7.1 If consent is relied upon as the lawful basis for collecting, holding, and/or processing personal data, the following shall apply:
 - 7.1.1 Consent is a clear indication by the data subject that they agree to the processing of their personal data. Such a clear indication may take the form of a statement or a positive action. Silence, pre-ticked boxes, or inactivity are unlikely to amount to consent.
 - 7.1.2 Where consent is given in a document which includes other matters, the section dealing with consent must be kept clearly separate from such other matters.
 - 7.1.3 Data subjects are free to withdraw consent at any time and it must be made easy for them to do so. If a data subject withdraws consent, their request must be honoured promptly.
 - 7.1.4 If personal data is to be processed for a different purpose that is incompatible with the purpose or purposes for which that personal data was originally collected that was not disclosed to the data subject when they first provided their consent, consent to the new purpose or

purposes may need to be obtained from the data subject.

- 7.1.5 If special category personal data is processed, the Council shall normally rely on a lawful basis other than explicit consent. If explicit consent is relied upon, the data subject in question must be issued with a suitable privacy notice in order to capture their consent.
- 7.1.6 In all cases where consent is relied upon as the lawful basis for collecting, holding, and/or processing personal data, records must be kept of all consents obtained in order to ensure that the Council can demonstrate its compliance with consent requirements.

8. Specified, Explicit, and Legitimate Purposes

8.1 The Council collects and processes:

- 8.1.1 personal data collected directly from data subjects; and personal data obtained from third parties.
- 8.1.2 The Council only collects, processes, and holds personal data for specific purposes or for other purposes expressly permitted by Data Protection Law.
- 8.1.3 Data subjects must be kept informed at all times of the purpose or purposes for which the Council uses their personal data. Please refer to Part 15 for more information on keeping data subjects informed.

9. Adequate, Relevant, and Limited Data Processing

9.1 The Council will only collect and process personal data for and to the extent necessary for the specific purpose or purposes of which data subjects have been informed (or will be informed) as under Part 8 above.

9.2 Employees, councillors, agents, contractors, or other parties working on behalf of the Council may collect personal data only to the extent required for the performance of their job duties and only in accordance with this Policy. Excessive personal data must not be collected.

9.3 Employees, councillors, agents, contractors, or other parties working on behalf of the Council may process personal data only when the performance of their job duties requires it. Personal data held by the Council cannot be processed for any unrelated reasons.

10. Accuracy of Data and Keeping Data Up-to-Date

10.1 The Council shall, with the aid of data subjects, ensure that all personal

data collected, processed, and held by it is kept accurate and up-to-date. This includes, but is not limited to, the rectification of personal data at the request of a data subject, as set out in Part 17, below.

- 10.2 If any personal data is found to be inaccurate or out-of-date, all reasonable steps will be taken to amend or erase that data, as appropriate.

11. Data Retention

- 11.1 The Council shall not keep personal data for any longer than is necessary in light of the purpose or purposes for which that personal data was originally collected, held, and processed.
- 11.2 When personal data is no longer required, all reasonable steps will be taken to erase or otherwise dispose of it without delay. Further detail is provided in Part 27 of this Policy (including the disposal of personal data for home workers) and in the Council's Data Retention Policy.
- 11.3 For full details of the Council's approach to data retention, including retention periods for specific personal data types held by the Council, please refer to the Council's Data Retention Policy and Retention Schedule.

12. Secure Processing

- 12.1 The Council shall ensure that all personal data collected, held, and processed is kept secure and protected against unauthorised or unlawful processing and against accidental loss, destruction, or damage. Further details of the technical and organisational measures which shall be taken are provided in Parts 25 to 30 of this Policy.
- 12.2 All technical and organisational measures taken to protect personal data shall be regularly reviewed and evaluated to ensure their ongoing effectiveness and the continued security of personal data.
- 12.3 Data security must be maintained at all times by protecting the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of all personal data as follows:
- 12.3.1 only those with a genuine need to access and use personal data and who are authorised to do so may access and use it;
 - 12.3.2 personal data must be accurate and suitable for the purpose or purposes for which it is collected, held, and processed; and
 - 12.3.3 authorised users must always be able to access the personal data as required for the authorised purpose or purposes.

13. Accountability and Record-Keeping

- 13.1 The Council shall follow a 'privacy by design' approach at all times when

collecting, holding, and processing personal data. Data Protection Impact Assessments shall be conducted if any processing presents a significant risk to the rights and freedoms of data subjects (please refer to Part 14 for further information).

13.2 All employees of the Council shall be given appropriate training in data protection and privacy, addressing the relevant aspects of Data Protection Law, this Policy, and all other applicable Council policies.

13.3 The Council's data protection compliance shall be regularly reviewed and evaluated by means of Data Protection Audits.

13.4 The Council shall keep a Record of Processing Activity (ROPA) of all personal data collection, holding, and processing, which shall incorporate the following information:

13.4.1 the name and details of the Council, its Data Protection Officer, and any applicable third-party data transfers (including data processors and other data controllers with whom personal data is shared);

13.4.2 the purposes for which the Council collects, holds, and processes personal data;

13.4.3 the Council's legal basis or bases for collecting, holding, and processing personal data;

13.4.4 details of the categories of personal data collected, held, and processed by the Council, and the categories of data subject to which that personal data relates;

13.4.5 details of any transfers of personal data to non-UK countries including all mechanisms and security safeguards;

13.4.6 details of how long personal data will be retained by the Council (please refer to the Council's Data Retention Schedule);

13.4.7 details of personal data storage, including location(s);

13.4.8 descriptions of all technical and organisational measures taken by the Council to ensure the security of personal data.

14. Data Protection Impact Assessments and Privacy by Design

14.1 In accordance with the privacy by design principles, the Council shall carry out Data Protection Impact Assessments for any and all new projects and/or new uses of personal data which involve the use of new technologies and where the processing involved is likely to result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of data subjects.

14.2 The principles of privacy by design should be followed at all times when collecting, holding, and processing personal data. The following factors should

be taken into consideration:

- 14.2.1 the nature, scope, context, and purpose or purposes of the collection, holding, and processing;
 - 14.2.2 the state of the art of all relevant technical and organisational measures to be taken;
 - 14.2.3 the cost of implementing such measures; and
 - 14.2.4 the risks posed to data subjects and to the Council, including their likelihood and severity.
- 14.3 Data Protection Impact Assessments shall be carried out with the assistance of the Data Protection Officer and shall address the following:
- 14.3.1 the type(s) of personal data that will be collected, held, and processed;
 - 14.3.2 the purpose(s) for which personal data is to be used;
 - 14.3.3 the Council's objectives;
 - 14.3.4 how personal data is to be used;
 - 14.3.5 the parties (internal and/or external) who are to be consulted;
 - 14.3.6 the necessity and proportionality of the data processing with respect to the purpose(s) for which it is being processed;
 - 14.3.7 risks posed to data subjects;
 - 14.3.8 risks posed both within and to the Council; and
 - 14.3.9 proposed measures to minimise and handle identified risks.

15. Keeping Data Subjects Informed

- 15.1 The Council shall provide the information set out in Part 15.4 to every data subject:
- 15.2 where personal data is collected directly from data subjects, those data subjects will be informed of its purpose at the time of collection; and
- 15.3 where personal data is obtained from a third party, the relevant data subjects will be informed of its purpose:
- 15.3.1 if the personal data is used to communicate with the data subject, when the first communication is made; or
 - 15.3.2 if the personal data is to be transferred to another party, before that transfer is made; or
 - 15.3.3 as soon as reasonably possible and in any event not more than one month after the personal data is obtained.
- 15.4 The following information shall be provided in the form of a privacy notice:

- 15.4.1 details of the Council including, but not limited to, contact details, and the names and contact details of any applicable representatives and its Data Protection Officer;
 - 15.4.2 the purpose(s) for which the personal data is being collected and will be processed and the lawful basis justifying that collection and processing;
 - 15.4.3 where applicable, the legitimate interests upon which the Council is justifying its collection and processing of the personal data;
 - 15.4.4 the categories of personal data collected and processed;
 - 15.4.5 where the personal data is to be transferred to one or more third parties, details of those parties;
 - 15.4.6 where the personal data is to be transferred to a third party that is located outside of the UK, details of that transfer, including but not limited to the safeguards in place (see Part 31 of this Policy for further details);
 - 15.4.7 details of applicable data retention periods;
 - 15.4.8 details of the data subject's rights under Data Protection Law;
 - 15.4.9 where applicable, details of the data subject's right to withdraw their consent to the Council's processing of their personal data at any time;
 - 15.4.10 details of the data subject's right to complain to the Information Commissioner's Office;
 - 15.4.11 where the personal data is not obtained directly from the data subject, details about the source of that personal data;
 - 15.4.12 where applicable, details of any legal or contractual requirement or obligation necessitating the collection and processing of the personal data and details of any consequences of failing to provide it; and
 - 15.4.13 details of any automated decision-making or profiling that will take place using the personal data, including information on how decisions will be made, the significance of those decisions, and any consequences.
- 15.5 The information above shall be provided either directly through a first tier detailed privacy notice or, where appropriate, through a short form second tier privacy notice. The privacy notice shall be made available directly to the data subject via, for example, an online form, email, over the phone or on the Council's website.

16. Data Subject Access

- 16.1 Data subjects may make subject access requests ("SARs") at any time to find out more about the personal data which the Council holds about them,

what it is doing with that personal data, and why.

- 16.2 Employees wishing to make a SAR should do so using a Subject Access Request Form available on the Council's website or by contacting the Council's Data Protection Officer.
- 16.3 Responses to SARs must normally be made within one month of receipt, however, this may be extended by up to two months if the SAR is complex and/or numerous requests are made. If such additional time is required, the data subject shall be informed.
- 16.4 All SARs received shall be handled by the Council's Data Protection Officer and/or Information Officer in liaison with the relevant service and in accordance with the Council's Access to Information Policy.
- 16.5 All employees, councillors, agents, contractors, or other parties working on behalf of the Council working from home must ensure that all personal data that they are working with is kept organised and only stored and processed within the Council's hosted desktop system in order to enable rapid search and retrieval.
- 16.6 The Council does not charge a fee for the handling of normal SARs. The Council reserves the right to charge reasonable fees for additional copies of information that has already been supplied to a data subject, and for requests that are manifestly unfounded or excessive, particularly where such requests are repetitive.

17. Rectification of Personal Data

- 17.1 Data subjects have the right to require the Council to rectify any of their personal data that is inaccurate or incomplete.
- 17.2 If required, the Council shall rectify the personal data in question, and inform the data subject of that rectification, within one month of the data subject informing the Council of the issue. The Council may restrict the processing of the data while the accuracy of the data is determined.
- 17.3 In the event that any affected personal data has been disclosed to third parties, those parties shall be informed of any rectification that must be made to that personal data.
- 17.4 All employees, councillors, agents, contractors, or other parties working on behalf of the Council working from home must ensure that all personal data that they are working with is kept organised and only stored and processed within the Council's Hosted Desktop system in order to enable rapid and/or centralised rectification.

18. Erasure of Personal Data

- 18.1 Data subjects have the right to request that the Council erases the

personal data it holds about them in the following circumstances:

- 18.1.1 it is no longer necessary for the Council to hold that personal data with respect to the purpose(s) for which it was originally collected or processed;
 - 18.1.2 the data subject wishes to withdraw their consent to the Council holding and processing their personal data;
 - 18.1.3 the data subject objects to the Council holding and processing their personal data (and there is no overriding legitimate interest to allow the Council to continue doing so) (see Part 21 of this Policy for further details concerning the right to object);
 - 18.1.4 the personal data has been processed unlawfully;
 - 18.1.5 the personal data needs to be erased in order for the Council to comply with a particular legal obligation;
 - 18.1.6 the personal data is being held and processed for the purpose of providing society services to a child.
- 18.2 Unless the Council has reasonable grounds to refuse to erase personal data, all requests for erasure shall be complied with, and the data subject informed of the erasure, within one month of receipt of the data subject's request. The period can be extended by up to two months in the case of complex requests. If such additional time is required, the data subject shall be informed.
- 18.3 In the event that any personal data that is to be erased in response to a data subject's request has been disclosed to third parties, those parties shall be informed of the erasure (unless it is impossible or would require disproportionate effort to do so).
- 18.4 All employees, councillors, agents, contractors, or other parties working on behalf of the Council working from home must ensure that all personal data that they are working with is kept organised and only stored and processed within the Council's Hosted Desktop system in order to enable rapid and/or centralised erasure.

19. Restriction of Personal Data Processing

- 19.1 Data subjects may request that the Council ceases processing the personal data it holds about them. If a data subject makes such a request, the Council shall, if required, retain only the amount of personal data concerning that data subject (if any) that is necessary to ensure that the personal data in question is not processed further.
- 19.2 In the event that any affected personal data has been disclosed to third parties, those parties shall be informed of the applicable restrictions on processing it (unless it is impossible or would require disproportionate effort

to do so).

- 19.3 All employees, councillors , agents, contractors, or other parties working on behalf of the Council working from home must ensure that all personal data that they are working with is kept organised and only stored and processed within the Council's Hosted Desktop system in order to enable the rapid and/or centralised application of restrictions.

20. Objections to Personal Data Processing

- 20.1 Data subjects have the right to object to the Council processing their personal data based on legitimate interests, for direct marketing (including profiling), and processing for scientific and/or historical research and statistics purposes.
- 20.2 Where a data subject objects to the Council processing their personal data based on its legitimate interests, the Council shall cease such processing immediately, unless it can be demonstrated that the Council's legitimate grounds for such processing override the data subject's interests, rights, and freedoms, or that the processing is necessary for the conduct of legal claims.
- 20.3 Where a data subject objects to the Council processing their personal data for direct marketing purposes, the Council shall cease such processing promptly.
- 20.4 Where a data subject objects to the Council processing their personal data for scientific and/or historical research and statistics purposes, the data subject must, under Data Protection Law, "demonstrate grounds relating to his or her particular situation". The Council is not required to comply if the research is necessary for the performance of a task carried out for reasons of public interest.

21. Direct Marketing

- 21.1 The Council will be subject to certain rules and regulations when undertaking direct marketing, however, the majority of messages that public authorities send to individuals are unlikely to constitute direct marketing.
- 21.2 If undertaking electronic direct marketing including email and text messaging, prior consent of data subjects is required.
- 21.3 The right to object to direct marketing shall be explicitly offered to data subjects in a clear and intelligible manner and must be kept separate from other information in order to preserve its clarity.
- 21.4 If a data subject objects to direct marketing, their request must be complied with promptly. A limited amount of personal data may be retained in such circumstances to the extent required to ensure that the data subject's marketing preferences continue to be complied with.

22. Personal Data Collected, Held, and Processed

Data collected, held, and processed by the Council is documented in the Council's Record of Processing Activity available on the Council's intranet (for details of data retention, please refer to the Council's Data Retention Policy and Retention Schedule).

23. Data Security - Transferring Personal Data and Communications

The Council shall ensure that the following measures are taken with respect to all communications and other transfers involving personal data:

- 23.1 All emails and attachments used for the transfer of personal data must be encrypted using password protection;
- 23.2 Employees, councillors, agents, contractors, or other parties working on behalf of the Council working from home must only access and process personal data when connected to the Council's Virtual Hosted Desktop Network;
- 23.3 Personal data may be transmitted over secure networks only; transmission over unsecured networks is not permitted in any circumstances. All employees, councillors, agents, contractors, or other parties working on behalf of the Council working from home must ensure, as far as is reasonably possible, that their home network is secure at all times and that, where applicable and reasonably possible, any and all security software or firmware updates for network equipment such as modems and routers are installed;
- 23.4 Personal data contained in the body of an email, whether sent or received, should be copied from the body of that email and stored securely. The email itself should be deleted;
- 23.5 Where personal data is to be transferred in hardcopy form it should be passed directly to the recipient. Personal data shall not be transferred to home workers in hardcopy form except in exceptional circumstances and only with permission from their line manager;

24. Data Security – Storage

The Council shall ensure that the following measures are taken with respect to the storage of personal data:

- 24.1 All electronic copies of personal data should be stored securely using passwords and data encryption;
- 24.2 All hardcopies of personal data should be stored securely in a locked box, drawer, cabinet, or similar;
- 24.3 All personal data stored electronically should be backed up daily during the working week and the Council should retain 1 month of backups.
- 24.4 The storage of personal data on mobile devices (including, but not limited to, laptops, tablets, and smartphones), whether such device belongs to the Council or otherwise, should be limited to the extent absolutely necessary for the performance of the relevant work. Furthermore, employees, councillors, agents, contractors, or other parties working on behalf of the Council working from home must only access and process personal data when connected to the Council's Hosted Desktop System.

25. Data Security – Disposal

- 25.1 When any personal data is to be erased or otherwise disposed of for any reason (including where copies have been made and are no longer needed), it should be securely deleted and disposed of and a deletion record should be kept;
- 25.2 For further information on the deletion and disposal of personal data, please refer to the Council's [Data Retention Policy](#).

26. Data Security - Use of Personal Data

- 26.1 The Council shall ensure that the following measures are taken with respect to the use of personal data:
 - 26.1.1 No personal data may be shared informally and if an employee, agent, contractor, or other party working on behalf of the Council requires access to any personal data that they do not already have access to, such access should be formally requested from the relevant data administrator;
 - 26.1.2 No personal data may be transferred to any employee, agent, contractor, or other party, whether such parties are working on behalf of the Council or not, without the authorisation of the relevant data administrator;
 - 26.1.3 Personal data must be handled with care at all times and should not be left unattended or on view to unauthorised employees, councillors, agents, contractors, or other parties at any time;
 - 26.1.4 If personal data is being viewed on a computer screen and the computer in question is to be left unattended for any period of time, the user must lock the computer and screen before leaving it;

- 26.1.5 All employees, councillors, agents, contractors, or other parties working on behalf of the Council working from home must ensure that they use all reasonable efforts to comply with Parts 26.1.3 and 26.1.4 above including, for example, setting aside a specific room or part of their home (ideally behind a lockable door, in a room with lockable windows) for home working, particularly when handling personal data. The Council recognises that home workers may not always be able to ensure a degree of security comparable to the Council's premises, but all reasonably practicable efforts should be made to ensure the best security possible in the circumstances;
- 26.1.6 Where personal data held by the Council is used for marketing purposes, it shall be the responsibility of the relevant data administrator to ensure that the appropriate consent is obtained and that no data subjects have opted out, whether directly or via a third-party service;

27. Data Security - IT Security

- 27.1 The Council shall ensure that the following measures are taken with respect to IT and information security:
- 27.1.1 All passwords used to protect personal data should be changed regularly and should not use words or phrases that can be easily guessed or otherwise compromised. All passwords must contain a combination of uppercase and lowercase letters, numbers, and symbols;
- 27.1.2 Under no circumstances should any passwords be written down or shared between any employees, councillors, agents, contractors, or other parties working on behalf of the Council, irrespective of seniority or department. If a password is forgotten, it must be reset using the applicable method;
- 27.1.3 All software (including, but not limited to, applications and operating systems) installed on IT equipment provided by the Council shall be kept up-to-date by the Council's IT staff.
- 27.1.4 No software may be installed on any Council-owned computer or device without the prior approval of the IT Department.

28. Organisational Measures

- 28.1 The Council shall ensure that the following measures are taken with respect to the collection, holding, and processing of personal data:
- 28.1.1 All employees, councillors, agents, contractors, or other parties

working on behalf of the Council shall be made fully aware of both their individual responsibilities and the Council's responsibilities under Data Protection Law and under this Policy, and shall be provided with a copy of this Policy;

- 28.1.2 Only employees, councillors, agents, contractors, or other parties working on behalf of the Council that need access to, and use of, personal data in order to carry out their assigned duties correctly shall have access to that relevant personal data held by the Council;
- 28.1.3 All sharing of personal data shall comply with the information provided to the relevant data subjects and, if required, the consent of such data subjects shall be obtained prior to the sharing of their personal data;
- 28.1.4 All employees, councillors, agents, contractors, or other parties working on behalf of the Council handling personal data will be appropriately trained to do so;
- 28.1.5 All employees, councillors, agents, contractors, or other parties working on behalf of the Council handling personal data shall be required and encouraged to exercise care, caution, and discretion when discussing work-related matters that relate to personal data, whether in the workplace or otherwise;
- 28.1.6 Methods of collecting, holding, and processing personal data shall be regularly evaluated and reviewed;
- 28.1.7 All personal data held by the Council shall be reviewed periodically, as set out in the Council's Data Retention Policy;
- 28.1.8 All employees, councillors, agents, contractors, or other parties working on behalf of the Council handling personal data will be bound to do so in accordance with the principles of Data Protection Law and this Policy;
- 28.1.9 All agents, contractors, or other parties working on behalf of the Council handling personal data must ensure that any and all of their employees who are involved in the processing of personal data are held to the same conditions as those relevant employees of the Council arising out of this Policy and Data Protection Law;
- 28.1.10 Where any agent, contractor or other party working on behalf of the Council handling personal data fails in their obligations under this Policy that party shall indemnify the Council against any costs, liability, damages, loss, claims or proceedings which may arise out of that failure;

29. Transferring Personal Data to a Country outside the UK

- 29.1 The Council may, from time to time, transfer ('transfer' includes making

available remotely) personal data to countries outside of the UK. The UK GDPR restricts such transfers in order to ensure that the level of protection given to data subjects is not compromised.

29.2 Personal data may only be transferred to a country outside the UK if one of the following applies:

29.2.1 The UK has issued regulations confirming that the country in question ensures an adequate level of protection (referred to as 'adequacy decisions' or 'adequacy regulations'). From 1 January 2021, transfers of personal data from the UK to EEA countries will continue to be permitted. Provisions are also in place to recognise pre-existing EU adequacy decisions in the UK.

29.2.2 Appropriate safeguards are in place including binding corporate rules, standard contractual clauses approved for use in the UK (this includes those adopted by the European Commission prior to 1 January 2021), an approved code of conduct, or an approved certification mechanism.

29.2.3 The transfer is made with the informed and explicit consent of the relevant data subject(s).

29.2.4 The transfer is necessary for one of the other reasons set out in the UK GDPR including the performance of a contract between the data subject and the Council; public interest reasons; for the establishment, exercise, or defence of legal claims; to protect the vital interests of the data subject where the data subject is physically or legally incapable of giving consent; or, in limited circumstances, for the Council's legitimate interests.

30. Data Breach Notification

30.1 All personal data breaches must be reported immediately to the Council's Data Protection Officer. For more information on data breach reporting, please see the Council's Data Breach Policy and its related procedures.