

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 09 February 2011 19:50  
**To:** "[REDACTED]@bradford.gov.uk"  
**Subject:** Re: Transparency - expenditure over £500

Hi,

I know, I sent the link to the web team this morning. Also have updated LDGAdmin for you.  
Best wishes

[REDACTED]  
Local Directgov Programme Manager  
This message was sent on my blackberry

---

**From:** [REDACTED]@bradford.gov.uk>  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wed Feb 09 16:09:39 2011  
**Subject:** RE: Transparency - expenditure over £500

Hi [REDACTED]

Our info is here  
[http://www.bradford.gov.uk/bmdc/government\\_politics\\_and\\_public\\_administration/council\\_budgets\\_and\\_spenc](http://www.bradford.gov.uk/bmdc/government_politics_and_public_administration/council_budgets_and_spenc)  
It went on last night.

Do I need to provide the link to Local Directgov in some specific format, so that we appear to be on the list here  
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/transparency/localgovernmentexpenditure/afexpendituredata>

[REDACTED]  
Corporate Development Manager  
City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council  
Britannia House, Hall Ings, Bradford BD1 1HX  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
www.bradford.gov.uk

---

**From:** [REDACTED]@communities.gsi.gov.uk]  
**Sent:** 02 February 2011 13:04  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Transparency - expenditure over £500

Thanks very much  
regards

---

**From:** [REDACTED]@bradford.gov.uk]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 02, 2011 1:02 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: Transparency - expenditure over £500

Hello [REDACTED]

Unfortunately neither [REDACTED] or I can give you the answer to your second question. The answer to the first is that no, nothing is published.

I will endeavour to find an answer for you - I do know we have been asked repeatedly how easy it would be to publish this information to which the answer is always to just send us the file. As you say, it is the Finance staff who would actually have to produce the info, so I shall make further urgent enquiries.

[REDACTED]  
Corporate Development Manager  
Britannia House, Hall Ings, Bradford BD1 1HX  
[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]@communities.gsi.gov.uk>  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wed Feb 02 12:29:55 2011  
**Subject:** FW: Transparency - expenditure over £500

FYI

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 02, 2011 12:27 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]@bradford.gov.uk  
**Subject:** Transparency - expenditure over £500

Hi,

We have just been checking through our records at DCLG and I can see that your council does not appear to have published details of council expenditure over £500.

I have visited your website but couldn't find anything relevant so if you are publishing and I have missed it please send me the link.

If you have not published the data I would be obliged if you would let me know when your council intends to make this data public. It is important that you let me know by Thursday (tomorrow) evening as I believe a central announcement is planned for Friday.

I would be grateful if you could forward this email to your colleagues in Finance as I realise that they may have more control over the production of the data.

Best Wishes

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Local Directgov Programme Manager  
Department for Communities and Local Government  
Home & Community Franchise  
Zone 7/F5, Eland House  
Bressenden Place  
London SW1E 5DU  
MOB: [REDACTED]  
Tel: [REDACTED]

Visit DCLG's e-newsroom [www.communities.gov.uk/newsroom](http://www.communities.gov.uk/newsroom) and follow us at <http://twitter.com/CommunitiesUK>

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**From:** localdir  
**Sent:** 09 February 2011 15:10  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Transparency - expenditure over £500  
Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks for letting me know

cheers

[REDACTED]  
Local Directgov

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 09, 2011 2:27 PM  
**To:** localdir  
**Subject:** RE: Transparency - expenditure over £500

Hi

I have added some more links:-

For West Lindsey District Council I have added 1573 and 1574 so the links below are now all done.

For North Kesteven District Council I have added 1574 so the only one currently missing is 1573.

Regards

---

**From:** Local Directgov [mailto:localdirectgov@communities.gov.uk]  
**Sent:** 02 February 2011 16:43  
**To:** localdirectgov@communities.gov.uk; [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Transparency - expenditure over £500

Please do not respond directly to this email

Hi,

I want to thank the vast majority of you (over 340/354 at the last count) who have published spending data over £500 on your websites.

If you do change your links over the next month or two, as well as keeping LDGAdmin links updated could you drop me a line to tell me about the change:

[REDACTED]@communities.gsi.gov.uk

There is no automatic process for updating the a-z of publishing councils and the timeline on the DCLG website, so I would be very grateful if you could inform me of any changes so I can keep DCLG pages synchronised.

Now that this first stage is over we are hoping to publish a transparency article on Directgov (along the lines of 'finding out how your council spends your money?'). The article will link out to the transparency pages on each council for the following services:

- 828/8 (LGSL/IL): Find out about council contracts and tenders over £500
- 1465/8 (LGSL/IL): Find out about details of council expenditure over £500
- 1573/8 (LGSL/IL): Find out about senior salary details at your council
- 1574/8 (LGSL/IL): Find out about councillor allowances and expenses

I would be grateful if you could update LDGAdmin as you publish these services on your websites as we will be undertaking a relative low key monitoring exercise over the next few weeks.

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**From:** [redacted] [mailto:[redacted]@swanley.org.uk]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 09, 2011 12:23 PM  
**To:** contactus@communities.gov.uk  
**Cc:** [redacted]@parliament.uk  
**Subject:** publication of spend over £500

Dear Sir/Madam

Whilst the local council sector is not currently obliged to publish the expenditure over £500, I write to advise that Swanley Town Council has been doing this since October 2010. (I note that in the latest consultation this sector is included in draft code of recommended practice)


Unfortunately due to the limitations on our website we cannot retain more than one month's information and we have to publish in excel format.

I note from the DCLG web site that you have links to authorities that have done this; our web site is [www.swanleytowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.swanleytowncouncil.gov.uk)

We also publish our annual report which includes the publication of salaries

Yours faithfully

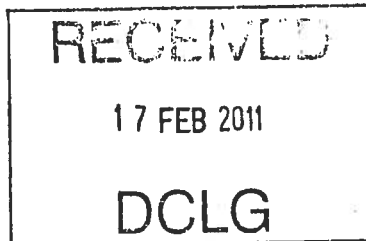
[redacted]  
**Chief Executive and Town Clerk**  
Swanley Town Council, Civic Centre,  
St Mary's Road, Swanley BR8 7BU  
Telephone [redacted]  
[www.swanleytowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.swanleytowncouncil.gov.uk)  
Swanley Banqueting [www.swanley.org.uk](http://www.swanley.org.uk)

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City of Westminster



The Leader of the Opposition: **Councillor Paul Dimoldenberg**

Your reference:

My reference

Direct Line: **020 7641 2230**

Fax No: **020 7641 2967**

Email: **pdimoldenberg@westminster.gov.uk**

Date: 9<sup>th</sup> February 2011

Eric Pickles MP  
Department for Communities and Local Government  
Eland House  
Bressenden Place  
London  
SW1E 5DU

**RE: Publication of Council Spending**

Dear Mr Pickles

It has come to my attention that the information published by Westminster City Council on its expenditure over £500 is deficient.

The only information provided by the Council on its website is the amount of money spent and the company to which it was paid. In most cases, this limited information is of no help to residents trying to find out how the Council is spending their money. Other Councils provide information identifying the goods or services on which the money was spent.

Please can you use your powers to order the City Council to publish the additional information which other Councils already publish.

Yours sincerely

Councillor Paul Dimoldenberg  
Leader of the Opposition  
Queen's Park Ward

BH  
Transparency  
DDT - Hulya  
Mustafa

From: [redacted]@whitehorsedc.gov.uk]  
Sent: 09 February 2011 17:53  
To: [redacted]  
Subject: links  
Hi [redacted]

Here are our links for the following as requested:

- 828/8 (LGSL/IL): Find out about council contracts and tenders over £500 - [http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/Business/Selling\\_to\\_the\\_council/DetailPage-7633.asp](http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/Business/Selling_to_the_council/DetailPage-7633.asp)
- 1465/8 (LGSL/IL): Find out about details of council expenditure over £500 - spotlight on spend
- 1573/8 (LGSL/IL): Find out about senior salary details at your council - [http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/About\\_your\\_Council/whos\\_who\\_at\\_the\\_council/DetailPage-3326.asp](http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/About_your_Council/whos_who_at_the_council/DetailPage-3326.asp)
- 1574/8 (LGSL/IL): Find out about councillor allowances and expenses - <http://whitehorsedc.moderngov.co.uk/ecSDDisplay.aspx?NAME=Members'+Allowances+Scheme+adopted+February+2008%2c&ID=406&sch=doc>

Hope this is ok  
Regards  
[redacted]

[redacted]  
Communications Officer (part time - work Monday to Wednesday)  
Corporate Strategy  
South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils  
01235 540528  
Text phone users add 18001 before you dial

Visit us:

[www.southoxon.gov.uk](http://www.southoxon.gov.uk)  
[www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk](http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk)

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[www.clearswift.com](http://www.clearswift.com)

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**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** 10 February 2011 12:43  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: Local Transparency  
Thanks very much for the information

regards

[redacted]

---

**From:** [redacted] [mailto:[redacted]@charnwood.gov.uk]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 10, 2011 12:11 PM  
**Subject:** Local Transparency

H [redacted]

As requested I am writing to let you know that I have updated the LDGAdmin to include url links relating to the information below :

- 828/8 (LGSL/IL): Find out about council contracts and tenders over £500
- 1465/8 (LGSL/IL): Find out about details of council expenditure over £500
- 1573/8 (LGSL/IL): Find out about senior salary details at your council
- 1574/8 (LGSL/IL): Find out about councillor allowances and expenses

Please note that as I belong to a shared service I have updated this information for both Charnwood Borough Council & North West Leicestershire District Council.

I hope this is all you need, if not let me know.

Regards

[redacted]  
Communications Assistant  
Communications Service  
*Communicating for Charnwood Borough Council & North West Leicestershire District Council*

Southfields, Loughborough, Leics LE11 2TR  
**Direct Line:** [redacted]  
**E-mail:** [redacted]@charnwood.gov.uk  
**Web:** [www.charnwood.gov.uk](http://www.charnwood.gov.uk)

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logged, monitored and/or recorded for lawful purposes.

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From: localdir  
Sent: 10 February 2011 09:28  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: Add a service  
Hi [REDACTED]

I've asked the DCLG web team to change the link on the page below and use the one you have saved in Local Directgov.

cheers  
[REDACTED]

---

From: [REDACTED]@harrow.gov.uk]  
Sent: Wednesday, February 09, 2011 4:59 PM  
To: localdir  
Subject: RE: Add a service

Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks for your email on this. I managed to do this but for some reason the link for London Borough of Harrow from the link below goes to a broken page on our website. Any ideas?

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/transparency/localgovernmentexpenditure/glexpenditu>

Thanks

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]  
Web Support Officer  
Web /GIS Team  
Business Transformation and Customer Service  
Civic 1 | 3rd Floor | East Wing  
Extn: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]@harrow.gov.uk

--- When referring to a web page, please include its URL ---

>>> "localdir" <LocalDirectGov@communities.gsi.gov.uk> 31/01/2011 09:17 >>>

Hi [REDACTED]

You need to log in to the Local Directgov admin interface -  
<https://admin.localdirect.gov.uk/LDGAdministration/>

Go to Link Data/ Service data - scroll to bottom of screen and click add new service - fill in LGSL as 1465, LGIL as 8, leave service name blank, paste in the URL for the link, tick the supported box and then the add button.

We have 2 registered users with login accounts for the LDG admin interface - [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] please let me know if you need a new account setting up

cheers  
[REDACTED]

Local Directgov

**From:** [redacted]@harrow.gov.uk  
**Sent:** Friday, January 28, 2011 4:32 PM  
**To:** localdir  
**Subject:** Add a service

Hi,

Please could you advise how to add a service onto the Local Directgov for the Local government expenditure over £500.

Thanks

Kind Regards,

[redacted]  
Web Support Officer  
Web /GIS Team  
Business Transformation and Customer Service  
Civic 1 | 3rd Floor | East Wing  
Extn: [redacted]  
[redacted]@harrow.gov.uk

--- When referring to a web page, please include its URL ---

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110211 Bury.txt

From: localdir  
Sent: 11 February 2011 16:27  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: Local Directgov Alert -over £500 data

Hi [REDACTED]

The team who manage that page are aware of your link - however as all but 3 Local authorities have now published their links I have suggested they remove the A-Z pages and replace them with the LDG locator link - <http://local.direct.gov.uk/LDGRedirect/index.jsp?LGSL=1465&LGIL=8> so that users can search for their local information - I think that they are planning to take the pages down tonight.

Cheers

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED] [mailto: [REDACTED]@bury.gov.uk]  
Sent: Friday, February 11, 2011 2:18 PM  
To: localdir  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: FW: Local Directgov Alert -over £500 data  
Importance: High

Hi [REDACTED]

Apparently Bury Council link still is not in your list. Please could this be resolved asap.  
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/transparency/localgovernmentexpenditure/afexpendituredata/>  
regards

[REDACTED]  
Web Application Team Manager  
Bury Council  
Town Hall Knowsley Street  
Bury  
[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 11 February 2011 16:38  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: Local Directgov Alert - Broken Link Test

[REDACTED]  
Bury is still not included in the list. The Directgov site links to the Communities site which includes a list of all authorities with a link to their over £500 data. I've attached the relevant link  
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/transparency/localgovernmentexpenditure/afexpendituredata/>

Appreciate your help in resolving this.

Thanks

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Head of Strategic Procurement & Project Planning | Bury Council  
Office: +44 [REDACTED] | Fax: +44 (0) 161 253 5779 [REDACTED]@bury.gov.uk  
| www.bury.gov.uk

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 11 February 2011 18:11  
**To:** [REDACTED]@kettering.gcsx.gov.uk'  
**Subject:** Re: local government transparency £500 spend information

Hi,  
The web team have taken down the A-Z and all that remains on the site is the Directgov locator screen which is even better as long as you keep your links up to date in the LDGAdmin system.  
Regards

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Local Directgov Programme Manager  
This message was sent on my blackberry

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**From:** [REDACTED]@kettering.gcsx.gov.uk>  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Fri Feb 11 16:19:33 2011  
**Subject:** FW: local government transparency £500 spend information

[REDACTED]  
I have checked the DCLG website but we have not been added to the A to Z list.  
Could you please advise.

Regards  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]@communities.gsi.gov.uk]  
**Sent:** 31 January 2011 12:35  
**To:** [REDACTED]@kettering.gcsx.gov.uk  
**Subject:** Re: local government transparency £500 spend information

Thanks for the link, I will make sure it is added to the lists  
Regards

[REDACTED]  
Local Directgov Programme Manager  
This message was sent on my blackberry

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**From:** [REDACTED]@kettering.gcsx.gov.uk>  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Mon Jan 31 10:36:02 2011  
**Subject:** local government transparency £500 spend information  
Dear [REDACTED]

I have been in contact with DCLG regarding the local government transparency £500 spend information. They have given me your email address as you are a contact for publishing the information on the DCLG website – I hope this is correct?

The URL below is for Kettering Borough Council. This information went live on 27/01/2011.

[http://www.kettering.gov.uk/site/scripts/documents\\_info.php?categoryID=100004&documentID=1443](http://www.kettering.gov.uk/site/scripts/documents_info.php?categoryID=100004&documentID=1443)



Please can you confirm receipt of this email?

Many thanks



Systems Accountant  
Kettering Borough Council



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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 11 February 2011 16:56  
**To:** [REDACTED]@kettering.gcsx.gov.uk'  
**Subject:** Re: local government transparency £500 spend information

Hi,

You are certainly included as publishing on my master spreadsheet which I pass over to the web team. I will investigate and ensure you are added.

Regards

[REDACTED]  
Local Directgov Programme Manager  
This message was sent on my blackberry

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**From:** [REDACTED]@kettering.gcsx.gov.uk>  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Fri Feb 11 16:19:33 2011  
**Subject:** FW: local government transparency £500 spend information

[REDACTED]

I have checked the DCLG website but we have not been added to the A to Z list.

Could you please advise.

Regards

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]@communities.gsi.gov.uk]  
**Sent:** 31 January 2011 12:35  
**To:** [REDACTED]@kettering.gcsx.gov.uk  
**Subject:** Re: local government transparency £500 spend information

Thanks for the link, I will make sure it is added to the lists

Regards

[REDACTED]  
Local Directgov Programme Manager  
This message was sent on my blackberry

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**From:** [REDACTED]@kettering.gcsx.gov.uk>  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Mon Jan 31 10:36:02 2011  
**Subject:** local government transparency £500 spend information  
Dear [REDACTED]



I have been in contact with DCLG regarding the local government transparency £500 spend information. They have given me your email address as you are a contact for publishing the information on the DCLG website – I hope this is correct?

The URL below is for Kettering Borough Council. This information went live on 27/01/2011.

[http://www.kettering.gov.uk/site/scripts/documents\\_info.php?categoryID=100004&documentID=1443](http://www.kettering.gov.uk/site/scripts/documents_info.php?categoryID=100004&documentID=1443)

Please can you confirm receipt of this email?

Many thanks

  
Systems Accountant  
Kettering Borough Council  


---

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**From:** localdir  
**Sent:** 15 February 2011 17:18  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Transparency - expenditure over £500  
Hi [REDACTED]

Yes you do need to add the following new services manually - in your case  
1573/8 (LGSL/IL): Find out about senior salary details at your council  
1574/8 (LGSL/IL): Find out about councillor allowances and expenses

We have already set up 1465 for the expenditure over £500 on your behalf so as to meet the end January deadline.

To add a new service you need to go to Links data/ service data - scroll to the bottom of the page and click "add new service" fill in LGSL, LGIL, paste in the URL and make sure you click the supported box before adding.

The contracts and tenders (828/8) is different from the expenditure items page. For information on what this covers please see the following guidance <http://lgnewcontracts.readandcomment.com/>

cheers

[REDACTED]  
Local Directgov

---

**From:** [REDACTED]@york.gov.uk]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 15, 2011 4:00 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED] localdir  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Transparency - expenditure over £500

Hi

For City of York Council:

Expenditure over £500 is at:  
<http://www.york.gov.uk/council/information/opendata/spending/>

We've published senior salary details at:  
<http://www.york.gov.uk/council/information/opendata/salaries/>

And councillor allowances and expenses at:  
[http://www.york.gov.uk/council/Elected\\_representatives/Councillors/allowances/](http://www.york.gov.uk/council/Elected_representatives/Councillors/allowances/)

Is the page for 'contracts and tenders' the same as 'spending' or should we have a separate data set for that?

On the LDGA admin website, do I need to manually add in the new services and service descriptions that don't exist yet for our LA?

All the best

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Local Directgov [mailto:localdirectgov@communities.gov.uk]

**Sent:** 02 February 2011 16:48

**To:** localdirectgov@communities.gov.uk; [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Transparency - expenditure over £500

Please do not respond directly to this email

Hi,

I want to thank the vast majority of you (over 340/354 at the last count) who have published spending data over £500 on your websites.

If you do change your links over the next month or two, as well as keeping LDGAdmin links updated could you drop me a line to tell me about the change:

[REDACTED]@communities.gsi.gov.uk

There is no automatic process for updating the a-z of publishing councils and the timeline on the DCLG website, so I would be very grateful if you could inform me of any changes so I can keep DCLG pages synchronised.

Now that this first stage is over we are hoping to publish a transparency article on Directgov (along the lines of 'finding out how your council spends your money?'). The article will link out to the transparency pages on each council for the following services:

- 828/8 (LGSL/IL): Find out about council contracts and tenders over £500
- 1465/8 (LGSL/IL): Find out about details of council expenditure over £500
- 1573/8 (LGSL/IL): Find out about senior salary details at your council
- 1574/8 (LGSL/IL): Find out about councillor allowances and expenses

I would be grateful if you could update LDGAdmin as you publish these services on your websites as we will be undertaking a relative low key monitoring exercise over the next few weeks.

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 15 February 2011 10:40  
**To:** [REDACTED]@cornwall.gov.uk'  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
'PublicData@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk'  
**Subject:** RE: Cornwall Fire and Rescue Service - Expenditures over £500

**Attachments:** Making Public Data Public - Meta-data pro-forma guidance.doc; Proforma - Local Authority spend.xls  
Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for informing us that the Cornwall Fire and Rescue Service is now publishing expenditure over £500 online. I am passing this on to DCLG colleagues who will arrange for your fire authority to be listed on the DCLG website..

You may be aware that you can also be included on the **data.gov.uk** site, please refer to the guidance here: <http://data.gov.uk/blog/publish-your-data-on-wwwdatagovuk-a-simple-how-to-guide> and attached general guidance about the metadata. I'm also attaching for your information a sample pro-forma with specific metadata relating to publishing spend data, *please note that only the text in red needs to be changed when information is entered on the site.*

Please contact [REDACTED] at the National Archives [PublicData@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk] if you need any specific guidance about entering information on the data.gov.uk site.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Department for Communities and Local Government | Data Transparency - Local Government Policy & Productivity | 3/ J3 Eland House SW1E 5DU [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]@communities.gsi.gov.uk

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---

**From:** [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]@cornwall.gov.uk]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 14, 2011 9:59 AM  
**To:** contactus@communities.gov.uk  
**Subject:** Cornwall Fire and Rescue Service - Expenditures over £500

Hello

Recently we have visited your pages on fire service expenditures and it appears that we have been left out from this. I'm not sure why this is, but I am pleased to say that we have published information on our expenditures via Cornwall Council's web pages:

<http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=26975>

Please could you make note of this on the appropriate CLG pages?

Many thanks

[REDACTED]  
Project Co-ordinator  
Planning and Performance

Business Development Team  
Cornwall Fire & Rescue Service  
Tel: [REDACTED]

 [fire.cornwall.gov.uk](http://fire.cornwall.gov.uk)

Room 608, Old County Hall, Station Road, Truro, TR1 3HA  
[www.cornwall.gov.uk/fire](http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/fire)

***"Working together to make Cornwall safer"***

Please let us know if you need any particular assistance from us, such as facilities to help with mobility, vision or hearing, or information in a different format.

Please consider the environment. Do you really need to print this email?

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110216 Scarborough Transparency links.txt

From: [REDACTED]@scarborough.gov.uk]

Sent: 16 February 2011 13:34

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Transparency links

H [REDACTED]

These are the links for transparency on the Scarborough.gov.uk website..

828/8 (LGSL/IL): Find out about council contracts and tenders over £500

1465/8 (LGSL/IL): Find out about details of council expenditure over £500

1573/8 (LGSL/IL): Find out about senior salary details at your council

Are all available/going to be available at [www.scarborough.gov.uk/opendata](http://www.scarborough.gov.uk/opendata)

1574/8 (LGSL/IL): Find out about councillor allowances and expenses

Is available here..

<http://www.scarborough.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=12242>

Hope this is ok.

Thanks

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
web Content Developer, ICT Services  
Scarborough Borough Council

e: [REDACTED]@scarborough.gov.uk | t: [REDACTED]

w: [www.scarborough.gov.uk](http://www.scarborough.gov.uk)

-----  
Don't forget to complete your Census form on 27 March 2011  
2011 Census - Help Tomorrow Take Shape  
-----

Europe's Most Enterprising Place - winner 2009  
International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) - Project of the Year  
Award 2009  
Academy of Urbanism - 'The Great Town' - winner 2010  
-----

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**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** 17 February 2011 11:03  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: Expenditure over £500  
Hi,

Thanks for the advice , I will pass this information over to the Transparency team.

regards

[redacted]

---

**From:** [redacted]@IOW.gov.uk]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 17, 2011 10:58 AM  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** FW: Expenditure over £500

We actually published our data on 25 January 2011. If I can assist with any more detail, please contact me  
Regards,

[redacted]

[redacted] Head of Compliance & Procurement  
Directorate of Resources | Isle of Wight Council County Hall | Isle of Wight | PO30 1UD  
Tel: [redacted] | Mob: [redacted]  
Email: [redacted]@iow.gov.uk | Web: www.iwight.com

---

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** 17 February 2011 10:46  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** FW: Expenditure over £500

Hi [redacted]

Please see email below from the DCLG - are you able to respond to their query please?

Many thanks

[redacted]

[redacted] Senior Transformation Manager | Transformation Team  
Isle of Wight Council | County Hall | Newport | Isle of Wight PO30 1UD  
Tel: [redacted] or internal ext [redacted]  
Email: [redacted]@iow.gov.uk | Web: www.iwight.com  
Transformation Website: <http://wightnet.iow.gov.uk/transformation/Default.aspx>

*As part of our commitment to Eco Island please don't print unless necessary*

---

**From:** [redacted]@communities.gsi.gov.uk]  
**Sent:** 17 February 2011 10:38  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** FW: Expenditure over £500

Could you possibly respond in Helen's absence.

Regards

[Redacted]

---

**From:** [Redacted]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 17, 2011 10:32 AM  
**To:** [Redacted]; iow.gov.uk; webteam@iow.gov.uk  
**Cc:** [Redacted]  
**Subject:** Expenditure over £500

Hi,

I have just tried phoning you but there was no one available to answer the phone.

---

DCLG have received an enquiry about the date on which you published the £500 spend data. I wonder if you can confirm the date that the pages on spotlight on spend were initially published including the actual financial data.

The date we have is 27/1/2011 but that is the date when we became aware( through third party sources) that you had published the data.

Regards

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Local Directgov Programme Manager  
Department for Communities and Local Government  
Home & Community Franchise  
Zone 7/F5, Eland House  
Bressenden Place  
London SW1E 5DU

Tel: [Redacted]

Visit DCLG's e-newsroom [www.communities.gov.uk/newsroom](http://www.communities.gov.uk/newsroom) and follow us at <http://twitter.com/CommunitiesUK>

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 18 February 2011 09:25  
**To:** [REDACTED]@milton-keynes.gov.uk  
**Subject:** Re: Council spend

Hi,  
Hope all is well on this damp and misty Friday.  
I can best explain by saying we have 2 agendas here: the open data guys who want to have the info in machine readable format so they can (in theory) utilise and mash up data from various sources to give us all new uses for the data. Thus the need for csv format.  
Secondly there is the transparency agenda which is more about accountability to residents, e.g. Find out what your council spends. These residents may not be computer savvy enough to have spreadsheet technology and need the PDF format to access council spending records.  
Does that explain the reason why the two formats are preferred?

Regards

[REDACTED]  
Local Directgov Programme Manager  
This message was sent on my blackberry

---

**From:** [REDACTED]@Milton-Keynes.gov.uk>  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Fri Feb 18 00:25:24 2011  
**Subject:** Council spend

[REDACTED] back on the subject of council spend data - can you advise as to why the data should also be in pdf format (the consultation document is also advising this)

Its just when we came to pdf the data - it created 100's of pages!!!!

Thanks

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Web Content Manager  
Milton Keynes Council Website  
T: [REDACTED]  
E: [REDACTED]@milton-keynes.gov.uk  
Milton Keynes Council | Milton Keynes Intelligence | Civic Offices | 1 Saxon Gate East | Milton Keynes | MK9 3EJ  
For information about Milton Keynes visit [www.milton-keynes.gov.uk](http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk)

Visit the Milton Keynes Council web site at <http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk>

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 23 February 2011 16:55  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Parish Councils - £500 Spend  
Hello [REDACTED]

The original letter from the Secretary of State was sent to Leaders of Principal Authorities. We have worked with National Association of Local Councils and the Society of Local Council Clerks to promote the Code of Practice consultation in addition to other broad publicity.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]  
DCLG  
T [REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]@basingstoke.gov.uk]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 23, 2011 4:30 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Parish Councils - £500 Spend

Hello [REDACTED]

Thank you very much for your email and for explaining the the current position. Would parish councils have received direct communication from the Secretary of State / DCLG regarding this matter at any stage?

Regards

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Corporate Accountant  
[REDACTED] / extn [REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]@communities.gsi.gov.uk]  
**Sent:** 23 February 2011 16:08  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Parish Councils - £500 Spend

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Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your e-mail. Ministers have not made the distinction on the bodies that should be publishing this information but are clear that the public has an interest in seeing how taxpayer's money is being spent.

The Department is currently consulting on a Draft Code of Recommended Practice for Local Authorities on Data Transparency. The Code aims to enshrine the principles of transparency and could cover parishes but we are seeking views on whether this is the correct approach. The Code is available for comment until 14th March 2011 on the Department's website:



[www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/publications/consultations/](http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/publications/consultations/). It is open to all to make representations on the proposed code, which will be considered carefully.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted]  
[Redacted] | Department for Communities and Local Government | Data Transparency - Local Government Policy & Productivity | 3/J3 Eland House SW1E 5DU [Redacted]

[Redacted]@communities.gsi.gov.uk

Please don't print this email unless you really need to.

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**From:** [Redacted]@basingstoke.gov.uk]

**Sent:** Monday, February 21, 2011 4:14 PM

**To:** 'contactus@communities.gov.uk'

**Subject:** Parish Councils - £500 Spend

Good afternoon,

---

We have had a query from one of our parish councillors as to whether they are required to publish details of any payment transactions over £500 incurred by the parish council as part of the data transparency arrangements for local authorities.

I am unable to find specific reference to this in the guidelines and wondered if you could confirm this for us please. It is possible that, as they are not principle local authorities, they are not required to publish this specific information online. Also, I would assume that each parish council would have received the letter from the DCLG during 2010 if they were required to put these arrangements in place for January 2011.

I would be very grateful if you could confirm whether the **£500 spend publication** applies to parish councils.

Many thanks

[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
Corporate Accountant

[Redacted] / extn [Redacted]

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[REDACTED]  
Via email to

[REDACTED]@asingstoke.gov.uk

Our Ref: ER/16/005233/11

Your Ref:

24<sup>th</sup> February 2011

Dear Ms [REDACTED]

---

### **£500 SPEND – PARISH COUNCILS**

Thank you for your email of 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2011 to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government regarding the publication of £500 spend and over. I have been asked to reply.

I can confirm that parishes are required to publish spend of £500 and over.

On the 7<sup>th</sup> February 2011 this department released for consultation a draft Code of Recommended Practice for local authorities on data transparency. The proposed Code includes a list of all those public bodies that are affected by it, this includes parishes. This proposed Code can be found on the department's website and we would welcome your views. It is intended to enshrine the principles of transparency and set out the next steps for local authorities in taking this agenda forward.

If you have any further queries just let me know

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** 28 February 2011 18:58  
**To:** [redacted]@epsom-ewell.gov.uk  
**Subject:** Re: Council transparency / Open data

H [redacted]  
The reasons for supported are lost in the mists of time and it is a nuisance that will be removed in the next upgrade.  
Modes are a PSC thing for the links we collect for businesslink; mode 1 links are links from your own website and mode 3 links are hosted on the Elms site\_ not something you need to worry about.  
Regards

[redacted]  
Local Directgov Programme Manager  
This message was sent on my blackberry

---


**From:** [redacted]@epsom-ewell.gov.uk  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Mon Feb 28 13:12:55 2011  
**Subject:** RE: Council transparency / Open data

[redacted]  
Thanks very much for the screenshots. I did not have a "Mode" to select but did have "supported" which I hadn't ticked so maybe it was that tick that is required.

What do the "mode" and "supported" refer to?

[redacted]  
IT Support Officer  
Town Hall  
Tel: 01372 732170  
Email: [redacted]@epsom-ewell.gov.uk  
Website: [www.epsom-ewell.gov.uk](http://www.epsom-ewell.gov.uk)

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**From:** [redacted]@communities.gsi.gov.uk  
**Sent:** 28 February 2011 12:09  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: Council transparency / Open data

H [redacted]  
I have loaded your link and I have taken screen shots of the process which are attached. Hope this helps.  
regards

---

**From:** [redacted]@epsom-ewell.gov.uk  
**Sent:** Monday, February 28, 2011 11:48 AM  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: Council transparency / Open data

Hi [redacted]

I tried again today to add the service on the search results page but it just doesn't do anything – doesn't give an error and doesn't show up at all.

The url is as follows:-

<http://www.epsom-ewell.gov.uk/EEBC/Council/Council+information/default.htm>

I don't know if you will have more luck.

Thanks

[redacted]  
IT Support Officer

Town Hall

Tel: [redacted]

Email: [redacted]@epsom-ewell.gov.uk

Website: [www.epsom-ewell.gov.uk](http://www.epsom-ewell.gov.uk)

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**From:** [redacted]@communities.gsi.gov.uk]

**Sent:** 24 February 2011 18:32

**To:** [redacted]

**Subject:** Re: Council transparency / Open data

This is a very irritating "feature" of the system that has caught many unawares and one which we have asked to be changed in the next software release.

You have to scroll right down to the bottom of the page to find the add button. Alternatively I search on the number I want to add and since there are null results the add button is clearly visible on the results page. if all else fails send me the link.

Regards

[redacted]

Local Directgov Programme Manager

This message was sent on my blackberry

---

**From:** [redacted]@epsom-ewell.gov.uk>

**To:** [redacted]

**Sent:** Thu Feb 24 15:18:16 2011

**Subject:** RE: Council transparency / Open data

H [redacted]

Going onto the admin interface I am not finding 828/8, etc to add our urls to. I tried to add the service but it didn't do anything.

Is it me? Am I being thick!

I wanted to add the url <http://www.epsom-ewell.gov.uk/EEBC/Council/Council+information/default.htm> which is our Council transparency web page.

Regards

[redacted]

IT Support Officer  
Town Hall  
Tel: [REDACTED]  
Email: [REDACTED]@epsom-ewell.gov.uk  
Website: [www.epsom-ewell.gov.uk](http://www.epsom-ewell.gov.uk)

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**From:** [REDACTED]@communities.gsi.gov.uk]  
**Sent:** 24 February 2011 14:10  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Council transparency / Open data

so pleased. I bet that is a relief

regards

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]@epsom-ewell.gov.uk]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 24, 2011 2:03 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Council transparency / Open data

Hi [REDACTED]

Just to let you know we have now got some data published:-

<http://www.epsom-ewell.gov.uk/EEBC/Council/Council+Information/>

there are links to Open data page and other areas.

Regards

[REDACTED]

IT Support Officer  
Town Hall  
Tel: [REDACTED]  
Email: [REDACTED]@epsom-ewell.gov.uk  
Website: [www.epsom-ewell.gov.uk](http://www.epsom-ewell.gov.uk)

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**From:** localdir  
**Sent:** 28 February 2011 11:11  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Local Authority Procurement Obligations  
Hi [REDACTED]

In my absence a colleague has written to policy officials in the department for Communities and Local Government asking them to reply to you.

You may also find the following site <http://lgtransparency.readandcomment.com/> useful as it has a link on the right hand side to the draft guidance on publishing tender opportunities:  
<http://lgnewcontracts.readandcomment.com/>

I hope this is helpful

cheers

[REDACTED]  
Local Directgov

---

**From:** [REDACTED]@harrogate.gov.uk]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 24, 2011 4:06 PM  
**To:** localdir  
**Subject:** Local Authority Procurement Obligations

Dear Sir/Madam,

I was wondering if you would be able to provide me with some information on current policy, and future plans, for transparency regulation in local government procurement. I am aware that councils are, from 31st January, expected to be publishing details of all expenditure above £500.

Are there any other requirements currently in place or soon to be demanded of local authorities regarding publication of upcoming tender opportunities? This question is in particular related to the 'Contracts Finder' website and any legal ramifications this may have for local authorities.

Where such information exists would you be able to direct me towards it in writing?

Regards,

[REDACTED]  
Graduate Trainee (Procurement)  
Department of Resources  
Harrogate Borough Council  
Council Offices  
Crescent Gardens  
HG1 2SG

Tel: [REDACTED]  
Email: [REDACTED]@harrogate.gov.uk  
Web: [www.harrogate.gov.uk](http://www.harrogate.gov.uk)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 01 March 2011 11:35  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Query Regarding Publishing £500 Spend - Parish Councils  
Hi [REDACTED]

No problem, happy to help.

I can confirm that parish councils did not receive direct communication from the department concerning the draft code of recommended practice. Neither did they receive the original letter from the Secretary of State in June last year, although this was only ever intended for those 354 principal authorities given policy direction at the time.

However, as policy developed beyond the SoS's letter and a code drafted, it was discovered that we could include parishes and many other authorities due to the Act upon which the code is based - The Local Government, Planning and Land Act 1980 (section 2 and 3). It's at this point we approached the National Association of Local Councils and the Society of Local Council Clerks to raise awareness in possible policy direction, the draft code and future consultation.

Hope that helps and as before if you have any further queries just let me know.

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | **Department for Communities and Local Government**

Local Authority Transparency | Digital Delivery and Transparency Division

Eland House | Zone 3/J4 | Bressenden Place | London | SW1E 5DU

Te [REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]@basingstoke.gov.uk]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 01, 2011 10:14 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Query Regarding Publishing £500 Spend - Parish Councils

Good morning [REDACTED]

Many thanks for responding.

Are you able to confirm whether parish councils will have received direct communication from the DCLG regarding the draft recommended code of practice and/or the original letter from the Secretary of State regarding data transparency?

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Corporate Accountant

[REDACTED] / extn [REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]@communities.gsi.gov.uk]

Sent: 24 February 2011 15:24

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Query Regarding Publishing £500 Spend - Parish Councils

\*\*\*\* PLEASE NOTE: This message has originated from a source external to Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council, and has been scanned for viruses. Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council reserves the right to store and monitor e-mails \*\*\*\*

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2011 to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government regarding the publication of £500 spend and over. I have been asked to reply.

I can confirm that parishes are required to publish spend of £500 and over.

On the 7<sup>th</sup> February 2011 this department released for consultation a draft Code of Recommended Practice for local authorities on data transparency. The proposed Code includes a list of all those public bodies that are affected by it, this includes parishes. This proposed Code can be found on the department's website and we would welcome your views - see link below. It is intended to enshrine the principles of transparency and set out the next steps for local authorities in taking this agenda forward.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/codepracticeladataconsult>

If you have any further queries just let me know.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED] | Department for Communities and Local Government

Local Authority Transparency | Digital Delivery and Transparency Division

Eland House | Zone 3/J4 | Bressenden Place | London | SW1E 5DU

Tel: [REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 04 March 2011 10:50  
**To:** [REDACTED]@arrogate.gov.uk  
**Subject:** RE: Local Authority Procurement Obligations

**Attachments:** PPN 02\_11 Transparency PPN.pdf  
[REDACTED]

As well as publishing expenditure over £500, since the end of January local authorities have been expected to be publishing details of new contracts and tenders over £500

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/transparency/transparencyguidance/>

A Code of Recommended Practice has been produced to support local authority transparency. Specifically, the Code follows the Prime Minister's and Secretary of State's request that local authorities open their books and publish details of expenditure over £500 and contract/tender information from January 2011. The proposed Code is open to consultation, and comments are invited by 14 March

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/codepractice/consult>

---

Contracts Finder has been launched to aid the Government in meeting its commitments to publishing contracts and tenders. Details of how Contracts Finder relates to Central Government were detailed in the attached PPN, which was circulated to local authorities for information.

In February Baroness Eaton from the LG Group shared a platform with the Prime Minister and Francis Maude to set out the Local Government Group's intention to support all councils to adopt the new simplified Pre-Qualification Questionnaire and access the new Contract Finder. My understanding is that Contracts Finder is being presented to LAs as a tool that they may wish to use. It is for LAs to decide how they wish to publish their contract and tender information - the minimum expectations are set out in the Code.

I hope that this answers your questions. If you have any other queries, my contact details are below.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Local Government Policy and Productivity

I work part-time and my working days are Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. My job-share partner is Vicki Windsor.

---

**From:** [REDACTED]@arrogate.gov.uk  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 24, 2011 4:06 PM  
**To:** localdir  
**Subject:** Local Authority Procurement Obligations

Dear Sir/Madam,

I was wondering if you would be able to provide me with some information on current policy, and future plans, for transparency regulation in local government procurement. I am aware that councils are, from 31st January, expected to be publishing details of all expenditure above £500.

Are there any other requirements currently in place or soon to be demanded of local authorities regarding publication of upcoming tender opportunities? This question is in particular related to the 'Contracts Finder' website and any legal ramifications this may have for local authorities.

Where such information exists would you be able to direct me towards it in writing?

Regards,

[REDACTED]  
Graduate Trainee (Procurement)  
Department of Resources  
Harrogate Borough Council  
Council Offices  
Crescent Gardens  
HG1 2SG

Tel: [REDACTED]  
Email: [REDACTED]@harrogate.gov.uk  
Web: [www.harrogate.gov.uk](http://www.harrogate.gov.uk)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 04 March 2011 13:52  
**To:** [REDACTED]@wyreforestdc.gov.uk  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Expenditure over Â£500 report

**Categories:** ContactUs  
**Dear** [REDACTED]

Thank you for your e-mail.

The Government is not being prescriptive about how local authorities publish details of their expenditure over £500. The Local Government Group and other experts have produced practitioners' guides (available at this link <http://lgtransparency.readandcomment.com/>) to set standards and offer practical help to councils in publishing their expenditure details.

You may also wish to be aware that this Department has recently published for consultation a Code of Recommended Practice which aims to enshrine the principles of transparency and offers all councils a clear outline of the information they should publish. The Code is available for comment at: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/codepracticeladataconsult>.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]  
 [REDACTED] Department for Communities and Local Government |Accountancy and Transparency  
 Division - Local Government Policy & Productivity | 3/J3 Eland House SW1E 5DU [REDACTED]  
 [REDACTED]@communities.gsi.gov.uk

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**From:** [REDACTED]@wyreforestdc.gov.uk]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 03, 2011 12:28 PM  
**To:** contactus@communities.gov.uk  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Expenditure over £500 report

Hi,

I work for Wyre Forest District Council and have come across a couple of situations where there is confusion about whether or not to include certain payments in our expenditure over £500 report which I will outline:

1) We are involved in a group named 'Wyre Forest Matters' which involves ourselves, the local PCT and also a charitable trust is involved. The charitable trust is responsible for all the spending decisions. Each year the PCT pay a grant to us as they will not pay this money directly to the charitable trust, we then transfer this money to the charitable trust. It is argued that this is strictly not Wyre Forest District Council's income & expenditure as we are only passing on funds to the charitable trust and therefore the transaction should be excluded from the Expenditure over £500 report.

2) Where we employ the services of debt collectors we must pay the VAT on any income they collect on our behalf. We register these invoices on our system with the supply amount (debit) with the corresponding VAT, then a second line credit which nets off the supply to zero. This effectively creates a VAT only payment. The Debit and credit lines that net to zero appear on our report. It is argued that as we are only paying the VAT and VAT is not to be included on the report then both the supply lines should be excluded also.

I would very much appreciate any comments and advice you would be able to give on these 2 situations.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]



[Redacted]

Accountancy Section  
Wyre Forest District Council

[Redacted]

[wyreforestdc.gov.uk](http://wyreforestdc.gov.uk)



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Councillor Peter Dale-Gough  
Slough Conservative Group Leader  
c/o Town Hall  
Bath Road  
Slough  
Berkshire  
SL1 3UQ

**Bob Neill MP**  
*Parliamentary Under Secretary of State*

**Department for Communities and Local  
Government**

Eland House  
Bressenden Place  
London SW1E 5DU

Tel: 0303 444 3430  
Fax: 0303 444 3986  
E-Mail: [bob.neill@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:bob.neill@communities.gsi.gov.uk)

[www.communities.gov.uk](http://www.communities.gov.uk)

Our Ref: ER/BN/008699/11

0 8 MAR 2011

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Dale-Gough".

#### **INCREASED TRANSPARENCY IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

Thank you for your letter of 27 January to the Secretary of State suggesting that on-line disclosure logs of all Freedom of Information (FOI) requests become mandatory. I am replying as local authority transparency falls within my portfolio of responsibilities.

I agree that such efforts would help to increase transparency and could also help to manage better future requests for information from taxpayers. While it is not a requirement of the FOI Act, the Ministry of Justice (as lead Department for FOI policy) has encouraged public authorities to do so voluntarily. This Department publishes online our own disclosure log at <http://www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/foi/disclosure-log/>. There are no plans to make publication mandatory, although the Information Commissioner does recommend it as best practice.

For our part, we are currently consulting on a Code of Practice on Data Transparency and propose that all local authorities should develop an inventory of data that they hold and publish this so that people can easily access the information that they want. I see no reason why FOI disclosure logs should not be included as part of that inventory.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Neill".

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Neill".

**BOB NEILL MP**



Councillor Paul Dimoldenberg  
Leader of the Opposition  
City of Westminster Council  
City Hall  
64 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1E 6QP

**Baroness Hanham CBE**  
*Parliamentary Under Secretary of State*

**Department for Communities and Local  
Government**

Eland House  
Bressenden Place  
London SW1E 5DU

Tel: 0303 444 3461  
Fax: 0303 444 3291  
E-Mail: [baroness.hanham@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:baroness.hanham@communities.gsi.gov.uk)

[www.communities.gov.uk](http://www.communities.gov.uk)

Our Ref: ER/BH/008035/11

08 MAR 2011

*Dear Cllr. Dimoldenberg.*

#### **PUBLICATION OF COUNCIL SPENDING**

Thank you for your letter of 9 February to the Rt Hon Eric Pickles MP about the publication of Westminster City Council's expenditure over £500. I am responding as this policy falls within my portfolio of responsibilities.

We are very pleased that Westminster, and the overwhelming majority of councils, has responded to our request to publish expenditure details. It is essential if accountability to local residents is to be strengthened.

Now that data is being published a proactive approach is needed on the part of councils to review content and to pursue higher standards of data quality. Guidance produced by the Local Government Group and Local Public Data Panel helpfully recommends common standards on content to help users share and analyse the content. This advice is available at <http://lgttransparency.readandcomment.com/1-introduction-2/> and <http://data.gov.uk/blog/local-spending-data-guidance> and suggests the publication of the amount, supplier, service area and narrative to help explain payments.

There are no plans to order councils to improve content. Instead the process of publication should be used to address any imperfections and deficiencies you perceive. I am sure pressure you can bring to bear within your council will help continue to raise standards.

*Yours sincerely*  
*Hanham*

**BARONESS HANHAM CBE**

**From:** localdir  
**Sent:** 10 March 2011 12:16  
**To:** knowledge.management@hertscc.gov.uk  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]cc.gov.uk; HELPDESK@DIRECTGOV.GSI.GOV.UK  
**Subject:** FW: Report a broken link or other technical problem - Ref: 185504 (Seq: 5663)  
Hi,

Can you please change the link held in Local Directgov for LGSL 1465/ LGIL 8 - Expenditure items over £500 to <http://www.hertslis.org/hertsopendata/counspend/supppay500/> as requested by [REDACTED] below.  
It is currently going to the member allowances and expenses page.

cheers

[REDACTED]  
Local Directgov

---

**From:** HELPDESK DIRECTGOV [mailto:HELPDESK@DIRECTGOV.GSI.GOV.UK]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2011 2:36 PM  
**To:** localdir  
**Subject:** RE: Report a broken link or other technical problem - Ref: 185504 (Seq: 5663)

Hi

Please see the email below. Could you help with this customer request.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]  
**Directgov Helpdesk**  
**Web & Mobile**

---

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[http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/SiteInformation/DG\\_020456](http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/SiteInformation/DG_020456)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** forms@directgov.uk [mailto:forms@directgov.uk]  
**Sent:** 07 March 2011 15:00  
**To:** HELPDESK DIRECTGOV  
**Subject:** Report a broken link or other technical problem - Ref: 185504 (Seq: 5663)

Form - Reference No: 185504

Name: [REDACTED]

Email Address: [REDACTED]@hertscc.gov.uk

Subject: Report a broken link or other technical problem

Comments: The link for the Hertfordshire Expenditure over Â£500 is pointing to the wrong page.

<http://local.direct.gov.uk/LDGRRedirect/LocationSearch.do?requestType=locator&LGSL=1465&LGIL=8&searchtype=3&text=Hertfordshire&Style=&laid>

Should be pointing to

<http://www.hertslis.org/hertsopendata/counspend/supppay500/>

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**From:** [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]@basingstoke.gov.uk]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 29, 2011 9:37 AM  
**To:** CONTACTUS  
**Subject:** Duty to publish spend of over £500.00 on websites  
**Importance:** High

Hi

I hope I have come to the right section.

I work for Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council and at my council we have regular meetings with Parish Clerks of Parish Councils - called Parish Liaison Meetings.

At the last meeting, there was a discussion about publishing spend of over £500.00 on websites. The council confirmed that we do this and it was explained at this meeting that Parish Councils had to do the same.

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The question I have for you is:-

All of our parish councils publish their spend in their minutes and the minutes are subsequently displayed on parish council websites - if they do this are they still abiding by the duty that any spend over £500.00 has to be published on a website or do they have to create a separate page on their websites to put these expenditure?

I hope my question makes sense, if not please let me know. It might be easier to explain over the telephone.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Democratic Services Manager  
Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council

[REDACTED]  
Email: [REDACTED]@basingstoke.gov.uk  
website: [www.basingstoke.gov.uk](http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk)

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From: [REDACTED]  
 Sent: 31 March 2011 14:08  
 To: [REDACTED]@rbkc.gov.uk  
 Subject: RE: Local Government Transparency Requirements

Categories: ContactUs  
 [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email.

The expectation set by the Government is that Local Authorities should be publishing all new contracts and tenders over £500 from January 2011. The Government is not being prescriptive about how this is done. As you are aware, the Local Government Group has produced some guidance, and I understand they are working on the next version of that guidance following the consultation. The point about standing orders that we clarified with Local Government Group was that the Government expectation to publish contracts over £500 should not lead to new contracts being signed, when previously they were not required by a local authority.

I do not feel as though I am in a position to interpret the LG Group Guidance, or to suggest how the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea should meet the expectation that has been placed on it. I will say that as I understand it, Ministers want all public spending to be transparent, and do not want significant amounts of spend to be buried in contracts that the public are not able to see and scrutinise, as citizens and taxpayers have a right to know how their money has been spent and what has been procured. Publishing full contracts and tenders will allow citizens to understand what service they should be expecting, will open up opportunities for the VCS and SMEs, and there may well be other benefits from publishing such rich sources of data.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]  
 [REDACTED]  
 Local Government Policy and Productivity

I work part-time and my working days are Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. My job-share partner is Vicki Windsor.

---

From: [REDACTED]@rbkc.gov.uk [mailto:[REDACTED]@rbkc.gov.uk]  
 Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 10:33 AM  
 To: contactus@communities.gov.uk  
 Subject: Local Government Transparency Requirements

Having read through the Local Government Group's consultation document 'Local Transparency – A Practitioners Guide to Publishing New Contracts and Tenders Data', I have a query that I would appreciate a response to: The requirement is for all *tenders* over £500 to be published and I note that the definition of a tender specifically excludes request for quotations. I also note that authorities are expected to work within local standing orders. The Contract Regulations in this authority allow for contracts up to £156k to be awarded via a request for quotations procedure, and therefore I would expect that we should only have to publish contracts above this threshold.

The Local Government Group have confirmed that in their view my interpretation is correct but I have been asked for DCLG's view also – please could you let me know?

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]  
 Strategic Procurement Officer

Finance, Information Systems and Property

Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea  
The Town Hall  
Hornton Street  
London  
W8 7NX



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The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.  
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you can contact the Census helpline on 0300 0201 101

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 12 April 2011 10:50  
**To:** [REDACTED]@copeland.gov.uk  
**Subject:** RE: Publication of tender and contract documentation  
 [REDACTED]

Thank you for your enquiry.

The expectation set by the Government is that Local Authorities should be publishing all new contracts and tenders over £500 from January 2011. Ministers want all public spending to be transparent, and do not want significant amounts of spend to be buried in contracts that the public are not able to see and scrutinise, as citizens and taxpayers have a right to know how their money has been spent and what has been procured. Publishing full contracts and tenders will allow citizens to understand what service they should be expecting, will open up opportunities for the VCS and SMEs, and there may well be other benefits from publishing such rich sources of data.

The Government is not being prescriptive about how Councils publish full tender and contract documentation. The Local Government Group has produced some guidance, and I understand they are working on the next version of that guidance following the consultation.

<http://lgnewcontracts.readandcomment.com/>

You may also want to take a look at the guidance that OGC has prepared on the publication of Government contracts and tenders.

[http://www.ogc.gov.uk/policy\\_and\\_standards\\_framework\\_transparency.asp](http://www.ogc.gov.uk/policy_and_standards_framework_transparency.asp)

The expectation has been placed on local authorities through the letter that the Secretary of State sent to Councils in June last year, and the principles underpinning local authority data transparency were set out in a draft Code of Practice for consultation. The consultation closed on 14 March, and responses are currently being considered. As the draft Code was issued for consultation there is a clear expectation that local authorities should comply with it. The Act upon which the Code is based does provide the power, should it be deemed necessary at a later date, to require publication of information specified in the Code by way of regulations, thereby making publication a legislative requirement.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/codepracticeladataconsult>

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]  
 [REDACTED]  
 Local Government Policy and Productivity

I work part-time and my working days are Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. My job-share partner is Vicki Windsor.

---

**From:** [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]@copeland.gov.uk]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 11, 2011 11:59 AM  
**To:** localdir  
**Subject:** Publication of tender and contract documentation

Hello

Would it be possible for you to clarify the mandatory requirements in terms of publishing tender and contract documentation as part of the transparency agenda? Is there a strict requirement to make available both the tender docs pre-procurement and the final contract post-award?

I would also appreciate some guidance around what may be redacted from the final contract.

Thanks



Procurement Officer  
Copeland Borough Council  
✉ [redacted]@copeland.gov.uk

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We make every effort to keep our network free from viruses. You should independen

110426 Rugby.txt

From: localdir  
Sent: 26 April 2011 13:28  
To: [redacted]  
Subject: RE: Local Directgov Alert - Local Directgov Update test

Hi [redacted]

Well "Supported" is a meaningless term in this context and we have asked for this option to be removed when the application is revamped in a few months - why would anyone want to add a non-supported service - makes no sense at all!

Cheers

-----Original Message-----

From: [redacted] [mailto:[redacted]@rugby.gov.uk]  
Sent: Tuesday, April 26, 2011 1:16 PM  
To: localdir  
Subject: RE: Local Directgov Alert - Local Directgov Update test

Hi Graham

---

Ah!!! You are quite correct, forgot that bit!!.....must update links more often!! :-)

Thanks

[redacted]  
Web Content Officer  
Communications Team  
Rugby Borough Council

Tel: [redacted]

-----Original Message-----

From: localdir [mailto:LocalDirectGov@communities.gsi.gov.uk]  
Sent: 26 April 2011 13:11  
To: [redacted]  
Subject: RE: Local Directgov Alert - Local Directgov Update test

Hi [redacted]

I think you have inadvertently changed these to "not applicable" - this will have happened if you didn't click the "supported" tick box on before saving your edits - if you try again and this time make sure you do tick supported it should work - any problems then please let me know.

cheers

[redacted]  
Local Directgov

-----Original Message-----

From: [redacted] [mailto:[redacted]@rugby.gov.uk]  
Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2011 11:11 AM  
To: localdir  
Subject: RE: Local Directgov Alert - Local Directgov Update test

Hi

I'm trying to update some links and they don't seem to be registering on the DirectGov site - I originally changed them on Friday 22 and again today (it maybe there is a delay or I'm doing something wrong!!)

110426 Rugby.txt

These are the links I was trying to add - all mentioned in this months newsletter.

LGSL/IL 828/8: Find out about council contracts and tenders over £500'

<http://www.rugby.gov.uk/site/scripts/documents.php?categoryID=200095>

'LGSL/IL 1573/8: Find out about senior salary details at your council'

[http://www.rugby.gov.uk/site/scripts/documents\\_info.php?documentID=1568&pageNumber=4](http://www.rugby.gov.uk/site/scripts/documents_info.php?documentID=1568&pageNumber=4)

'LGSL/IL 1574/8: Find out about councillor allowances and expenses'

[http://www.rugby.gov.uk/site/scripts/documents\\_info.php?documentID=1568&pageNumber=1](http://www.rugby.gov.uk/site/scripts/documents_info.php?documentID=1568&pageNumber=1)

Can you help?

Thanks

[REDACTED]  
Web Content Officer  
Communications Team  
Rugby Borough Council

Tel: [REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: localdirectgov@communities.gov.uk  
[mailto:localdirectgov@communities.gov.uk]  
Sent: 16 September 2010 08:57  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Local Directgov Alert - Local Directgov update test

This email was automatically sent to you as the nominated web portal officer for Rugby Borough Council.

Every night changes to the URL supplied by your Council through the Local Directgov admin interface are checked against your website for validation. If the URLs are invalid then the LDG database is not updated with the service/interaction entry.

This email is sent to you whenever changes are supplied by your council.

The Local Directgov update test was run at 16-09-2010 08:56:37 with the following results:

9	URLs uploaded to Local Directgov were tested
9	URLs were good
0	URLs had errors

The details of all the results are included in the CSV file attached to this email.

What to do next:

Please check the attached report and make any required changes to it then upload the saved file to Local Directgov on <https://admin.localdirect.gov.uk/LDGAdministration/>

If you have any queries regarding this email, or would like assistance in resolving the issues please contact [localdirectgov@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:localdirectgov@communities.gsi.gov.uk) with the following subject line: "email alerts-council name"

Local Directgov

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Thank you for your co-operation.

Rugby Borough Council

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Thank you for your co-operation.

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Rugby Borough Council