

LESSINGHAM WITH HEMPSTEAD AND ECCLES PARISH COUNCIL

RETENTION OF RECORDS POLICY

This policy covers both paper and electronic files. It is acceptable to retain only an electronic file in many circumstances, however those records bearing a signature or other official mark must be either scanned, or filed in original paper format, to ensure that the signature or official mark is retained.

Table 1 Retention of Records

RECORD	RETENTION PERIOD	NOTES
Accident Report Forms	3 years (or 3 years after the Subject reaches their 18 th birthday)	Whichever is the greater.
Accounts – Annual Audit Return	Indefinite	
Accounts – Invoices / Vouchers	7 years from end of the relative financial year	For VAT purposes. Includes petty cash records.
Accounts – Minor records	2 years from completion of audit	Paying in books / Cheque stubs
Agendas	5 years	Minutes form the official record of the meeting.
Allotment Register & Plan	Indefinite	
Audit Reports – Internal & External	Indefinite	
Bank Statements	2 years from completion of audit	
Budgets	5 years	
Buildings – papers relating to occupation	3 years after occupation ceases	
Buildings & Engineering Works – key records not covered elsewhere in this policy	For the life of the building	
Burial Ground Records	Indefinite	
Cash books	7 years	VAT

RECORD	RETENTION PERIOD	NOTES
Complaints	10 years	Unless otherwise advised by a legal representative
Contracts – council as customer	10 years from termination	
Contracts – council as supplier	10 years from completion	Eg building hire
Debtors records	7 years from discharge of debt	
Deeds of Title	Indefinite	
Delivery Notes	2 months	Until payment of invoice is made
Demand Notes	7 years	
Diaries	1 year after last date in diary	
Employment Records - Major	6 years after Subject leaves service or until 70 th birthday, whichever is later	Letters of appointment, contracts and variations, related correspondence
Employment Records - Minor	2 years	Annual Leave records, timesheets etc
Estimates	3 years	
Expense Claims	7 years	
Inspection Records – eg Boilers etc	Lifetime of item	
Insurance Policies	Indefinite	
Job Applications – Unsuccessful applications	6 months	
Land Surveys and Registers	Indefinite	
Leases	Indefinite	
Members Allowance Register	6 years	
Minutes – Full Council & Advisory Groups	Indefinite	Full Council – signed copy to be kept in paper format. Advisory Groups – copy to be kept electronically.

RECORD	RETENTION PERIOD	NOTES
Minutes – Working Parties	5 years after completion of subject matter	
Pay Roll – Salaries & Pension	6 years	
PAYE Records	6 years	
Planning Applications	N/a	No longer supplied in paper format, viewed on North Norfolk District Council website
Play Area Inspection Records	21 years	Age of majority + 3 – statute of limitations for a claim for injury when a minor
Property Acquisition and Disposal Records	Indefinite	
Reports – Annual Parish Report	Indefinite	Archive of Council's activities
Reports – Meetings (major)	Indefinite	
Reports – Meetings (minor)	3 years	
Serious Incident Files	Indefinite	
Software Licences	Lifetime of software	
Surveys – Buildings & Engineering	Indefinite	
Tenders	7 years	
Training Records	7 years following termination of appointment	Both staff and councillors
VAT Records	7 years	

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