

SOPLEY PARISH COUNCIL

INFORMATION WHICH NEEDS TO BE PUBLISHED

(Transparency Code 2015)



1. Introduction

The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities issued the **Local Government Transparency Code 2015** (“the Code”), which came into force on **1 April 2015**.

The Code was issued under Section 2 of the Local Government, Planning and Land Act 1980 and replaces any previous transparency codes issued under those powers.

The purpose of the Code is to increase transparency through the publication of open and reusable data, enabling taxpayers to understand how local authorities use public money.

2. Relationship with Other Legislation

The Code does not replace or override existing statutory rights of access to public sector information. These include:

- Freedom of Information Act 2000 (as amended by the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012)
- Environmental Information Regulations 2004
- Re-Use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2005
- Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community Regulations 2009
- Sections 25 and 26 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, which provide rights for persons to inspect a local authority’s accounting records and supporting documentation, and to make copies of them.

3. Applicability to Sopley Parish Council

The Code applies to Town and Parish Councils with a gross annual income and expenditure exceeding **£25,000**.

Sopley Parish Council publishes required information under the **Transparency** section of its website, with additional information provided in other relevant areas.

4. Publication Requirements

Information required under the Code will be published **at least quarterly**.

In accordance with the **Data Protection Act 2018**, personal data will be redacted where disclosure could identify an individual.

Where contracts are awarded through a tender process and the value exceeds **£25,000**, the relevant data will be published under **Project Delivery**.

5. Review and Approval

This document forms part of Sopley Parish Council’s governance and transparency framework and will be reviewed periodically to ensure ongoing compliance with statutory requirements.