

Preserve your council's website for future generations....

The British Library, as the national library would like to invite all local authorities to participate in this free web preservation programme.

The National Archives and the British Library are now working together to ensure the long term preservation of central and local government web sites. The National Archives will gather and store copies of Westminster government sites regularly every six months through its Digital Continuity Programme. The British Library has accepted responsibility for archiving local authority sites.

Participating in this programme is completely free; all councils' need do is sign a copyright licence which will allow the British Library to make a permanent copy of your website every six months. Signing the copyright licence in no way affects the ownership of your site, how it is hosted or the content of your site and is really just a formality; it is simply a legal requirement the British Library must undertake before it is able to make copies of your web site.

Sites archived by the British Library will be made publicly available via the UK Web Archiving Consortium repository at <http://www.webarchive.org.uk/> . This repository holds sites archived by all six Consortium members, of which the British Library is one.

The British Library will be writing to responsible officers in English local authorities in the coming months providing more information on this programme and a copy of the licence document. In the meantime, more information about the UK Web Archiving Consortium and how your archived website(s) will be made available can be found on their FAQ page <http://info.webarchive.org.uk/webmasters.html>, alternatively, you can email jennie.grimshaw@bl.uk.