

Local Government Information Unit

NEWS RELEASE

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The right to know

Local democracy thinktank the Local Government Information Unit (LGIU) has launched a new e-publication, entitled *Information is Power*, explaining the law governing the access to information for the public and elected councillors.

In January 2005, new duties affecting local government come into force, arising from the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The LGIU's guide aims to help councillors, local authority officers and members of the public navigate the maze of laws that exist in England and Wales. It describes the changes that are in train. *Information is Power* can be downloaded free of charge from <http://www.steerbriefing.org.uk/lgiu/Infop.pdf>.

Ramani Chelliah, LGIU Policy Officer and author of *Information is Power*, said: "Active citizenship and strong local democracy requires access to information to be as open as possible to the public and their elected representatives.

"This area is governed by a complex and changing web of legislation. *Information is Power* aims to give councillors, council officers and members of the public a concise account of the legislation that exists, including the provisions of the new Freedom of Information Act."