

Bradfield St George Parish Council
Website Accessibility Report
16-11-2026

Introduction

Providing digital services is now the cornerstone of how local authorities (county, district, parish and town councils) interact with residents. Under the Equality Act 2010 and the Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) (No 2) Regulations 2020, any organisation that holds a *.gov.uk* domain is legally obliged to meet at least the AA level of the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG 2.1). These rules apply equally to large county councils and to the smallest parish or town council, regardless of budget size. Compliance ensures that people with visual, auditory, motor or cognitive impairments can perceive, understand, navigate and interact with the site on an equal footing, thereby avoiding legal risk, reducing support costs and demonstrating a genuine commitment to inclusive public service.



For many parish and town councils, limited resources make the prospect of a full-scale accessibility overhaul feel daunting. Yet the regulations are clear: every *.gov.uk* website must be WCAG 2.1 AA compliant, and the upcoming shift to WCAG 2.2 AA will raise the bar even further. Failure to meet these standards can lead to enforcement actions, reputational damage, and, most importantly, the exclusion of constituents who rely on accessible digital experiences. Even modest improvements—such as ensuring sufficient colour contrast, providing keyboard-only navigation, and delivering clear error messages—can dramatically increase usability for all users while keeping costs manageable.

Pear Space is a leading solutions provider for local government digital services. Leveraging a seasoned in-house development team with decades of experience building council websites, we deliver a full suite of web solutions, from bespoke, WCAG compliant templates to robust back-office integrations, all backed by a 24/7 help desk. As one of the largest registrars of *.gov.uk* domains and an official *.gov.uk* Domain Helper Service registrar, we give councils maximum peace of mind: you benefit from streamlined domain management, guaranteed compliance with government-mandated standards, and rapid support whenever issues arise, as well as wrap around support on the rest of your IT and technology requirements. Our end-to-end approach means councils can achieve WCAG 2.2 AA compliance quickly, affordably, and sustainably, without diverting scarce internal resources.

Beyond meeting the legal mandate, Pear Space can also provide ongoing monitoring and maintenance to keep your *.gov.uk* site compliant as standards evolve. We supply clear documentation, regular accessibility testing and a responsive help desk that can address emerging issues swiftly. This partnership not only safeguards the council against regulatory risk but also delivers a more welcoming digital environment for every resident, reinforcing trust in local government services.

Report Summary

After a thorough scan of the main top level pages of your council's current website, we've identified the key areas that need attention. You can read more details about each identified area further on in this report.



The audit uncovered an average of **0.3 errors** per page – issues that prevent the site from meeting the required accessibility standards and will need to be resolved.



In addition, there are an average of **38.7 alerts** per page, which are less critical but still represent valuable opportunities to improve usability.



Taken together, the site achieves an overall accessibility score of **9.4 / 10** indicating a good level of accessibility with room for improvement. This high-level snapshot sets the stage for the recommendations that follow, helping the council create a smoother, more inclusive online experience for all users.

Errors

The following are errors detected on your site that until resolved prevent your site from meeting accessibility requirements.

Very Low Contrast

Elements of your website have a very low contrast which can make it difficult for those with low vision to see or interact with them.

Recommendation: Increase the contrast of low contrast elements on the site to meet the minimum WCAG 2.1 AA contrast ratio requirements, ensuring legibility for users with visual impairments.

Managed Cyber Security

Our fully managed cyber-security service protects council devices around the clock. We install and continuously update industry leading anti-virus and anti-malware software, monitor email traffic for malicious links or attachments, and provide unified threat detection that flags suspicious behaviour across all your devices.

With proactive threat hunting, rapid incident response and regular security-health reports, you'll have confidence that staff can work safely whether they're in the office, at a community centre, or working from home. Let us handle the security so you can focus on delivering essential services to the public.

From

£10/user/month



Alerts

The following are a list of alerts discovered on your site. These are not necessarily non-conformant with accessibility standards but may cause accessibility issues with your website and where possible should be addressed. In some cases these alerts can be safely ignored as an automated scan can pick up issues that in reality are acceptable.

Links to documents

Unless specifically authored with accessibility in mind, PDF and Word documents are rarely accessible. Additionally, they often require downloading or other plugins to view which can be confusing for some users and difficult to navigate. This applies to all document types including PDFs, Word documents, Excel spreadsheets, PowerPoint presentations and Google Drive files.

Recommendation: Ensure that any PDFs and other documents linked from the website are accessible. We have recently launched an automatic accessible minutes upload feature built on brand new government templates, making it simple to publish fully accessible meeting minutes with no extra effort on your part. Contact us to find out how we can help your council make the switch.

Redundant Links

Some of the links on your page are adjacent to each other yet go to the same location. This can sometimes happen by accident when pages are built and a link tag gets split between sentences or paragraphs.

Recommendation: Combine adjacent identical links into a single <a> link.

Redundant Title Text

Your website includes title attributes that are the same or near identical to the text itself. Title elements should be used to provide advisory information that appears when a user hovers the mouse over an element such as a link.

Recommendation: In most cases the title attribute can be removed as the link or element itself already provides sufficient information. Otherwise it should be updated to provide advisory and not redundant information.

Possible Headings

Some of the text on your site appears to be a heading, for example is in bold or underlined, but is not within a heading tag (<h1> for example). Using heading elements <h1> to <h6> will help provide important document structure to those using assistive technology. If a heading that appears to visually be a heading is not a true heading in code then it won't be available to screen readers and other technology.

Recommendation: Where headings are true headings use appropriate <h1–6> tags.

Select Element Missing Label

There are select elements (drop downs) on your site that do not have a label. This is not always a problem though, if a drop down has a default value that adequately explains its purpose such as a month name in a date selector, then a label isn't always necessary.

Recommendation: Ensure that the default option in a select element presents the purpose of the menu. If there is visible label text present then associate this with the menu.

Cloud Backup

Council laptops contain large amounts of crucial information such as meeting agendas and minutes, financial information, and a wealth of other critical government data. Losing this data could be disastrous for the smooth functioning of a parish or town.

Often with parish and town councils this critical data is stored on just one or two key devices such as a laptop which can easily be lost, stolen, or simply suffer a catastrophic hardware failure. Cloud backup ensures that this critical data is backed up constantly to the cloud and can be restored in minutes should disaster strike.

From

£30/user/month



Next Steps

With the above report you now have a high-level overview of the areas of your site that are either non-compliant or potentially non-compliant and preventing equal access to your website.



The next step is to address the errors which are making the site non-compliant with WCAG 2.2 AA. Once the errors are addressed a thorough review of the alerts should be carried out and as many resolved as possible.

There are a couple of possible options for you to consider in terms of how best to go about bringing your site in line with regulations.

1. Once you've had a chance to review the report, come back to us and we can discuss what work is required to fix as much of the report as you desire. Some councils want to fix every single error and alert, whilst others pick the highest impact ones. At a minimum, you must fix all the errors to be compliant with regulations, but don't worry, we will make it quick, easy, and affordable.
2. If you prefer, you can work through this report and update the content within your website CMS to resolve the identified issues. In many cases it is a simple quick fix in the page content, and if you're not sure you can always get in touch with us for advice. Once you're happy come back to us to have a report re-run to see if the errors have been addressed fully and alerts reduced or completely removed.

We completely appreciate that some of the terms in this report might be quite technical, and whilst we've done our best to make this report as easy to understand as possible there are always going to be some questions. Don't hesitate to get back in touch to discuss elements of the report that you're not sure about and the best method to rectify those issues. We're here to help you on this journey to making your site fully accessible and that also means making sure the technology and understanding is accessible to you.

Accessibility Monitoring

Websites are constantly changing and evolving as new content is uploaded and new features are added. With each edit your website can become non-compliant and inaccessible to some users. Our continuous monitoring means we'll monitor your site constantly and alert you if it becomes inaccessible and non-compliant at any point so you never have to worry about accessibility again.

From

£750/year