

# Notice of Schools Forum



Date: Monday, 23 September 2024 at 10.00 am

Venue: Royal Hampshire Committee Room, BCP Civic Centre, Bournemouth  
BH2 6DY

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## Membership:

### Chairman:

Geoff Cherrill Maintained Special

### Vice-Chairman:

|                  |                               |
|------------------|-------------------------------|
| Patrick Earnshaw | Academies - Secondary         |
| Kate Carter      | Academies - Primary           |
| Esther Curry     | Academies - Primary           |
| Kate Curtis      | Academies - Primary           |
| Sean Preston     | Academies - Primary           |
| Heather Spring   | Academies - Primary           |
| VACANCY          | Academies - Primary           |
| Vacancy          | Academies - Primary           |
| Mark Avoth       | Academies - Secondary         |
| P Gray           | Academies - Secondary         |
| M Dyer           | Academies - Secondary         |
| J Sankey         | Academies - Secondary         |
| Natasha Ullah    | Academies - Secondary         |
| Ben Doyle        | All Through Academies         |
| Jon Webb         | Special Academies             |
| Russell Arnold   | Alternative Provision Academy |
| Brigid Hincks    | Maintained Primary (Governor) |
| Chris Barnett    | Maintained Secondary          |
| Phillip Gavin    | Mainstream PRU                |
| Vicky Peters     | Early Years                   |
| Linda Duly       | Early Years                   |
| Vacancy          | 14-19 Provision               |
| Vacancy          | Catholic Diocese              |
| Richard Wharton  | C of E Diocese Representative |

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All Members of the Schools Forum are summoned to attend this meeting to consider the items of business set out on the agenda below.

Members of the public may attend this meeting in person at the venue listed above. Papers can be found at the following link:

<https://democracy.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?MIId=5770>

If you would like any further information on the items to be considered at the meeting please contact: Claire Johnston email [democratic.services@bcpCouncil.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@bcpCouncil.gov.uk)

Press enquiries should be directed to the Press Office: Tel: 01202 454668 or email [press.office@bcpCouncil.gov.uk](mailto:press.office@bcpCouncil.gov.uk)

This notice and all the papers mentioned within it are available at [democracy.bcpCouncil.gov.uk](https://democracy.bcpCouncil.gov.uk)

GRAHAM FARRANT  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

13 September 2024

**DEBATE**  
**NOT HATE**



Available online and  
on the Mod.gov app

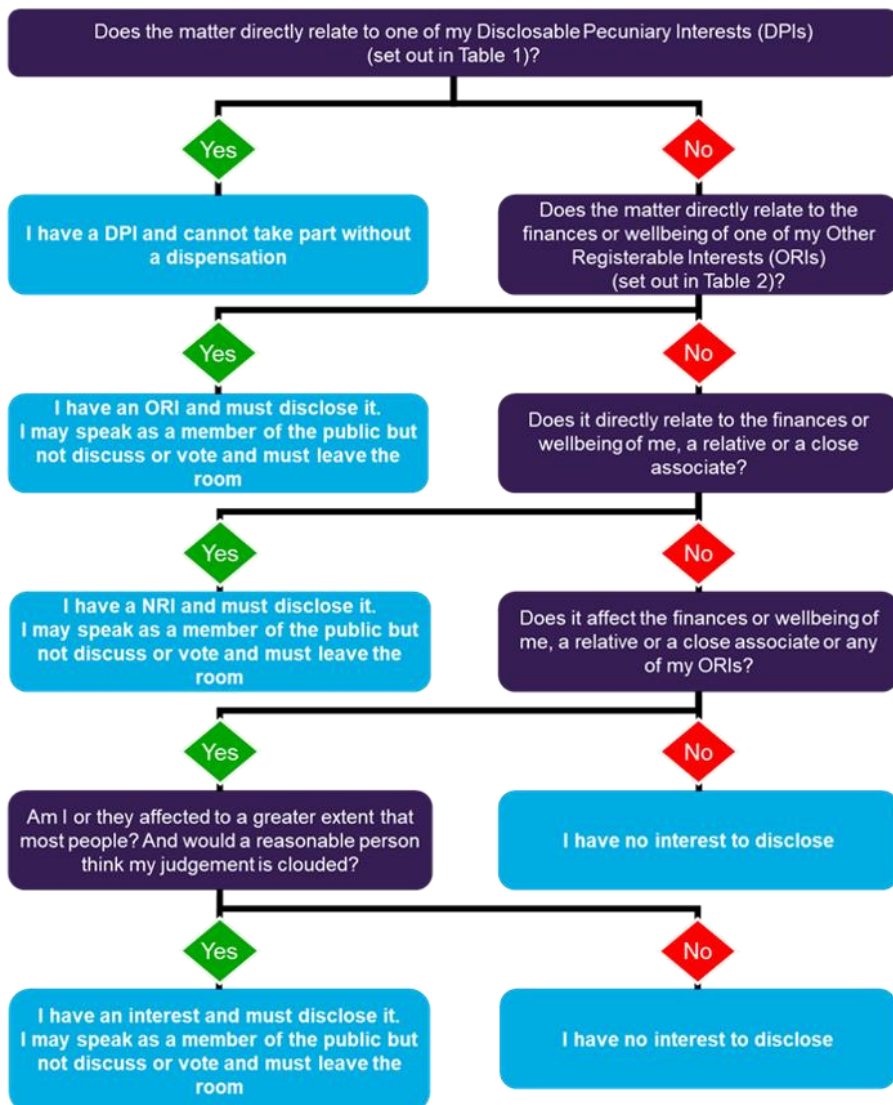


## Maintaining and promoting high standards of conduct

### Declaring interests at meetings

Familiarise yourself with the Councillor Code of Conduct which can be found in Part 6 of the Council's Constitution.

Before the meeting, read the agenda and reports to see if the matters to be discussed at the meeting concern your interests



What are the principles of bias and pre-determination and how do they affect my participation in the meeting?

Bias and predetermination are common law concepts. If they affect you, your participation in the meeting may call into question the decision arrived at on the item.

#### Bias Test

In all the circumstances, would it lead a fair minded and informed observer to conclude that there was a real possibility or a real danger that the decision maker was biased?

#### Predetermination Test

At the time of making the decision, did the decision maker have a closed mind?

If a councillor appears to be biased or to have predetermined their decision, they must NOT participate in the meeting.

For more information or advice please contact the Monitoring Officer  
([janie.berry@bcpcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:janie.berry@bcpcouncil.gov.uk))

### Selflessness

Councillors should act solely in terms of the public interest

### Integrity

Councillors must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships

### Objectivity

Councillors must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias

### Accountability

Councillors are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this

### Openness

Councillors should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing

### Honesty & Integrity

Councillors should act with honesty and integrity and should not place themselves in situations where their honesty and integrity may be questioned

### Leadership

Councillors should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour. They should actively promote and robustly support the principles and be willing to challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs

# AGENDA

Items to be considered while the meeting is open to the public

**1. Apologies for Absence**

To receive any apologies for absence.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

Councillors are requested to declare any interests on items included in this agenda. Please refer to the workflow on the preceding page for guidance. Declarations received will be reported at the meeting.

**3. Election of Chair**

To Elect a Chair of the Forum.

**4. Election of Vice-Chair**

To elect a Vice-Chair of the Forum.

**5. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

7 - 10

To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 6 February 2024, as a correct record.

**6. DSG 23-24 Outturn**

11 - 16

The report considers the end of year position for the DSG budget 2023-24 at a net in-year deficit of £27.7 million. This is against a budgeted deficit of £27.1 million.

The £0.6 million overspend is largely due to the increasing high needs budget (£1.3 million), offset by savings in the school block and early years block.

The accumulated deficit has grown as a result from £35.8 million to £63.5 million at March 2024, with this required to be carried forward and recovered from future DSG allocations.

**7. Quarter 1 Budget Monitoring and High Needs Update 2024-25**

17 - 28

The BCP Local Area SEND system has significantly changed for the better over the last academic year. This follows the creation of a new SEND Improvement Plan developed to meet the Local Authority's DfE Statutory Direction Notice to Improve. The improvement work which has taken place over the last 10 months has now addressed all historic backlogs and improved the servicing of new assessments and Education Care and Health Plans into the system.

BCP's timeliness in servicing new assessments at 20 weeks is 97% which is near the statutory expectation of 100%. This is a much-needed improvement from the previous year's activity which stood at 0% in August 23 and August 2022 at just 5.6%.

Reported to Cabinet in September, an unexpected further increase in new EHCP requests since January 2024 has led to a £15.9 million further increase in the annual funding gap budgeted of £28 million (£43.9 million annual funding gap in total)

The cumulative deficit at 31 March 2025 is projected to be £107.4 million.

## **8. Forward Plan**

29 - 30

To consider and note the Forward Plan

## **9. Dates of Future Meetings**

The Forum is asked to note the previously agreed dates:

- 18 November 2024
- 13 January 2025
- 23 June 2025

And to agree its future meeting dates as outlined below:

- 29 September 2025
- 24 November 2025
- 19 January 2025
- 22 June 2025

## **10. Any Other Business**

To consider any other business, which, in the opinion of the Chairman, is of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration.

No other items of business can be considered unless the Chairman decides the matter is urgent for reasons that must be specified and recorded in the Minutes.