

# Notice of Schools Forum



Date: Monday, 13 January 2025 at 10.00 am

Venue: Royal Hampshire Committee Room, BCP Civic Centre, Bournemouth  
BH2 6DY / Via MS Teams

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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
Chris Moody	Academies - Primary
Sean Preston	Academies - Primary
Heather Spring	Academies - Primary
Vacancy	Academies - Primary
Mark Avoth	Academies - Secondary
P Gray	Academies - Secondary
M Dyer	Academies - Secondary
J Sankey	Academies - Secondary
Vacancy	Academies - Secondary
VACANCY	Special Academies
Ben Doyle	All Through Academies
Russell Arnold	Alternative Provision Academy
Chris Barnett	Maintained Secondary
Phillip Gavin	Mainstream PRU
Vicky Peters	Early Years
Linda Duly	Early Years
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 remote meeting to consider the items of business set out on the agenda below.

The press and public are welcome to attend this remote meeting and should email any request to do so to the meeting contact below, and a meeting invite will be sent.

<https://democracy.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?MIId=5772>

If you would like any further information on the items to be considered at the meeting please contact: Claire Johnston on 01202 096660 or email [democratic.services@bcpcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@bcpcouncil.gov.uk)

Press enquiries should be directed to the Press Office: Tel: 01202 118686 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.bcpccouncil.gov.uk](http://democracy.bcpccouncil.gov.uk)

GRAHAM FARRANT  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

3 January 2025

**DEBATE**  
**NOT HATE**



Available online and  
on the Mod.gov app

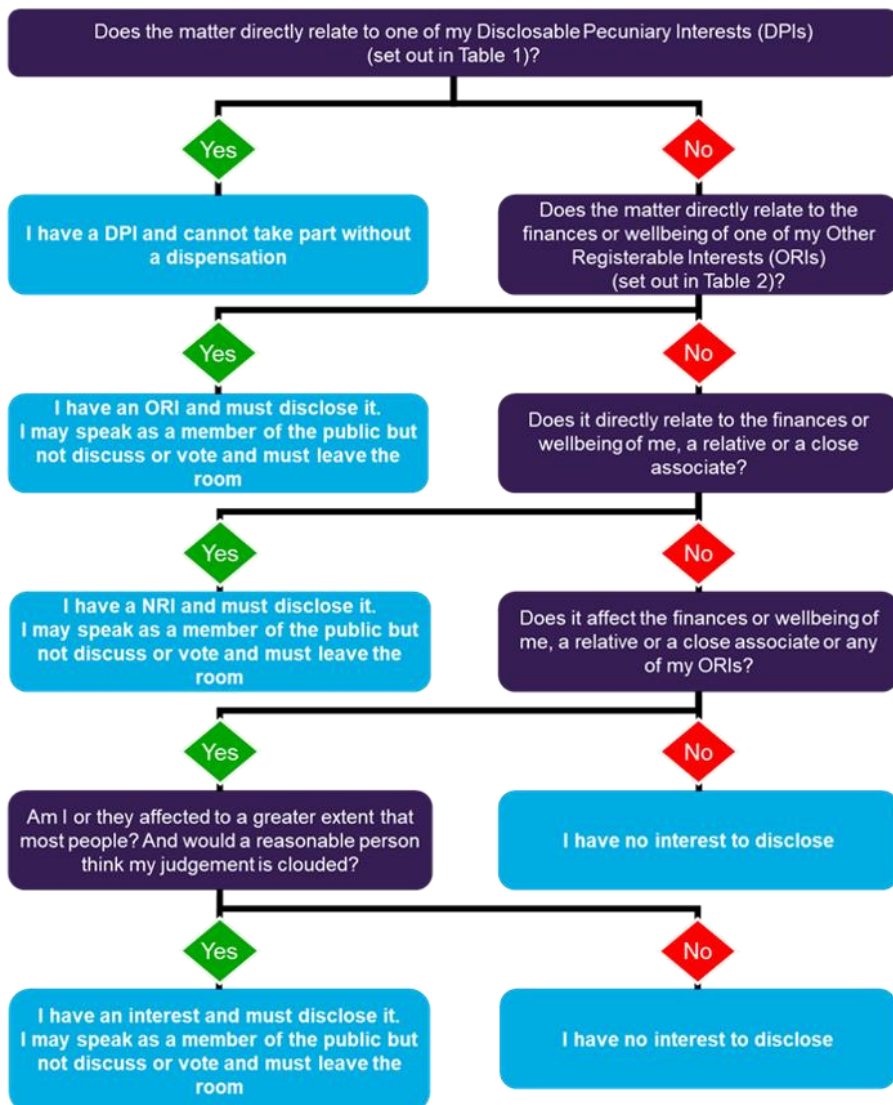


## Maintaining and promoting high standards of conduct

### 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. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

7 - 10

To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 18 November 2024, as a correct record.

## 4. DSG Financial Settlement 2025-26

11 - 20

1. The DSG Settlement for 2025-26 was received on 18 December 2024. It included:
  - a. Indicative allocations for the early years block, with the 47% increase of £17m to £53.5m reflecting the phased expansions of the free childcare entitlements for working parents and increase in hourly funding rates.
  - b. Final allocations for the school's block based on the October 2024 schools census, with the increase of 1.7% to £280.7m through the schools NFF reflecting higher factor unit values and an increase in pupil characteristic data partially offset by a net reduction in pupil roll.
  - c. Final allocations for the central school services block of £2.2m, providing an increase of 3.5% for on-going functions, including for the national insurance increase from April 2025.
  - d. Indicative allocations for the high needs block are for an increase of £3.8m (6.2%) to £64.5m.
2. A draft DSG budget for 2025-26 is provided in the Appendix to provide context for decisions on the meeting agenda. The funding gap for high needs pupils is projected to be £57.5m.

The report also includes budget monitoring information for quarter three 2024-25. This indicates that the accumulated DSG deficit is projected at £108m for March 2025, rising to £165.5m by March 2026.

## 5. Mainstream Funding and Transfer to High Needs 2025/26

21 - 40

This report sets out the outcome of applying the 2025-26 National Funding Formula (NFF) to the October 2024 schools census data and options for the local mainstream schools funding formula linked to the final decision regarding a transfer of funding to high needs. It also sets out the 2025-26 growth fund budget for approval.

## 6. Innovation Fund

41 - 48

This report provides further information relating to the proposals for the use of the £2.8 million Innovation Fund.

The Fund was previously proposed as a way to provide support to mainstream schools to enable them to successfully maintain more placements for pupils with SEND in their mainstream settings to reduce the number of new ECHNAs and use of Alternative Provision where possible. This report includes the content of those proposals, the breakdown of the financial costs, and potential consequences from the decision made by Schools Forum.

## **7. Central Retention and De-delegation Consultation**

49 - 68

This report provides proposals for:

- the central retention of services for the 2025/26 financial year where the LA retains a statutory duty to undertake activity to support maintained schools only (both mainstream and specialist);
- de-delegation of services for the 2025/26 financial year applicable only to mainstream schools. These are services where schools retain the statutory duties, but better efficiency could be achieved through central delivery by the LA.

## **8. Forward Plan**

69 - 70

To consider and note the Forward Plan

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

To note the future meeting dates as follows:

- 23 June 2025
- 29 September 2025
- 24 November 2025
- 19 January 2026
- 22 June 2026

## **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.