

Notice of Audit and Governance Committee



Date: Thursday, 28 November 2024 at 6.00 pm

Venue: Committee Room, First Floor, BCP Civic Centre Annex, St Stephen's Rd, Bournemouth BH2 6LL

Membership:

Chair:

Cllr M Andrews

Vice Chair:

Cllr E Connolly

Cllr S Armstrong
Cllr J Beesley
Cllr M Phipps

Cllr V Slade
Cllr M Tarling
Cllr C Weight

Vacancy

Independent persons:

Lindy Jansen-VanVuuren

Samantha Acton

All Members of the Audit and Governance Committee are summoned to attend this meeting to consider the items of business set out on the agenda below.

The press and public are welcome to view the live stream of this meeting at the following link:

<https://democracy.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?MIId=5976>

If you would like any further information on the items to be considered at the meeting please contact: Jill Holyoake on 01202 127564 or email democratic.services@bcpCouncil.gov.uk

Press enquiries should be directed to the Press Office: Tel: 01202 118686 or email press.office@bcpCouncil.gov.uk

This notice and all the papers mentioned within it are available at democracy.bcpCouncil.gov.uk

GRAHAM FARRANT
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

20 November 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)

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

To receive any apologies for absence from Councillors.

2. Substitute Members

To receive information on any changes in the membership of the Committee.

Note – When a member of a Committee is unable to attend a meeting of a Committee or Sub-Committee, the relevant Political Group Leader (or their nominated representative) may, by notice to the Monitoring Officer (or their nominated representative) prior to the meeting, appoint a substitute member from within the same Political Group. The contact details on the front of this agenda should be used for notifications.

3. Declarations of Interests

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.

4. Confirmation of Minutes

To confirm and sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 17 October 2024.

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5. Public Issues

To receive any public questions, statements or petitions submitted in accordance with the Constitution. Further information on the requirements for submitting these is available to view at the following link:-

<https://democracy.bcpccouncil.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CommitteeID=151&Info=1&bcr=1>

The deadline for the submission of public questions is midday on Friday 22 November [midday 3 clear working days before the meeting].

The deadline for the submission of a statement is midday on Wednesday 27 November [midday the working day before the meeting].

The deadline for the submission of a petition is Thursday 14 November 2024 [10 working days before the meeting].

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

6. Statement of Accounts 2022/23

The draft statement of accounts for 2022/23 was published within the statutory deadline on the 31st May 2023. At that time the audit of the statement was expected to be completed later in 2023. However, due to the complex set of factors contributing to audit delays across the sector, an

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audit of the 2022/23 statements has not been completed, other than work relating to the external auditor's value for money opinion. To address the national backlog of local audits the Government is imposing (subject to secondary legislation) a backstop date of 13 December 2024 for publication of accounts for financial years up to and including 2022/23. The Committee is required to consider and approve the accounts before they are published.

7. Review of the Council's Constitution - Recommendations of the Constitution Review Working Group

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The report summarises the issues considered by the Constitution Review Working Group and sets out a series of recommendations arising from the Working Group for consideration by the Committee relating to the arrangements at Council for a separate budget meeting and the scheme of delegation for the planning committees.

In addition, the report seeks the appointment of an additional member of the committee to serve on the Constitution Review Working Group.

Any recommendations arising from the Committee shall be referred to full Council for adoption.

8. Presentation - Transparency of officer decision making and accountability to Councillors

To receive a presentation on the transparency of officer decision making covering Constitution elements and the accountability to Councillors.

9. Presentation - Governance surrounding the disposal of Council land and property

To receive a presentation to explain the governance in place when the Council seeks to dispose of land and property.

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