

Notice of Russell Cotes Art Gallery and Museum Management Committee



Date: Monday, 27 October 2025 at 2.00 pm

Venue: HMS Phoebe, BCP Civic Centre, Bournemouth BH2 6DY

Membership:

Chairman:

Stuart Bartholomew

Vice Chairman:

Cllr L Williams

Cllr A Martin

Cllr L Northover

Ms F Winrow

Sir George Meyrick Baronet

Mr A Frost

All Members of the Russell Cotes Art Gallery and Museum Management 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=6163>

If you would like any further information on the items to be considered at the meeting please contact: Rebekah Rhodes or email rebekah.rhodes@bcpCouncil.gov.uk

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

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

AIDAN DUNN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

17 October 2025

**DEBATE
NOT HATE**



Available online and
on the Mod.gov app

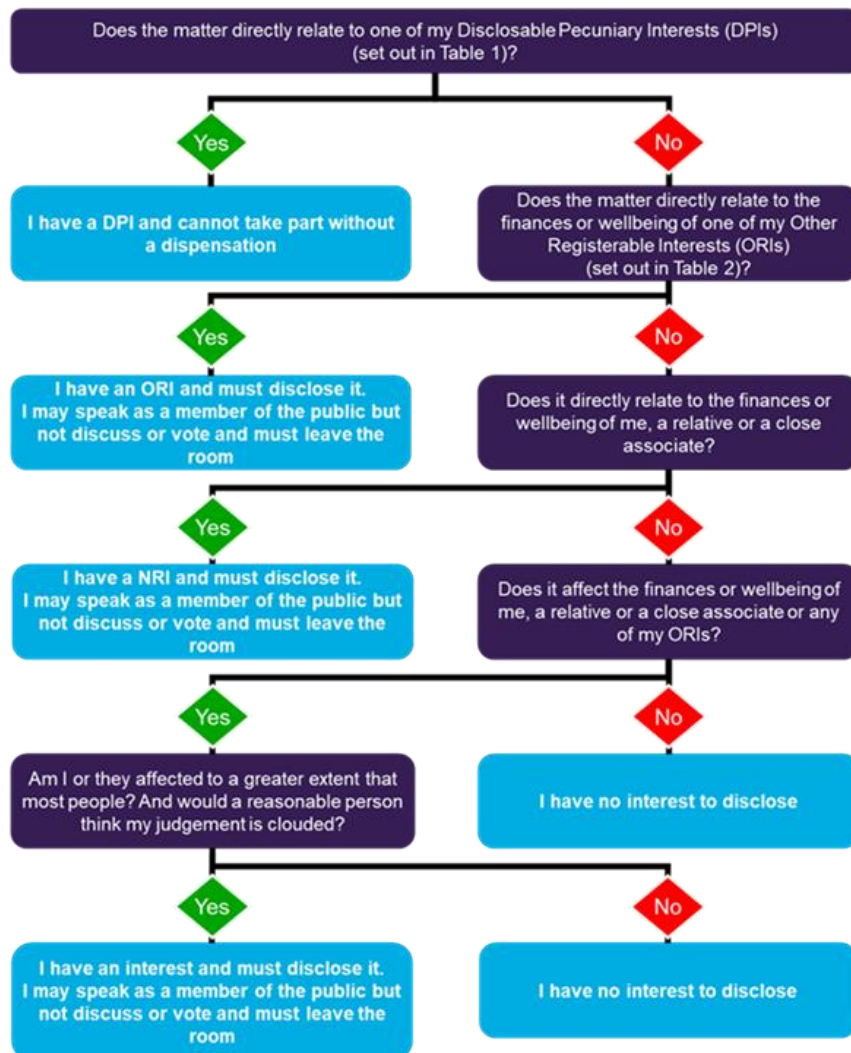


Maintaining and promoting high standards of conduct

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

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 from Councillors.

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

To confirm and sign as a correct record the minutes of the Meeting held on 2 June 2025.

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4. 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 4 clear working days before the meeting.

The deadline for the submission of a statement is midday the working day before the meeting.

The deadline for the submission of a petition is 10 working days before the meeting.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

5. Russell-Cotes Art Gallery and Museum Update Report (1 April – 30 September 2025)

11 - 20

The Museum has had another successful 6 month period (1 April – 30 September 2025). After a slow start to the season, the summer has been extremely busy due to the popularity of the Ruth Borchard Self Portrait Award exhibition throughout the house and the 'May Morris: Art and Advocacy' exhibition in the main galleries. The café has benefited from the good weather attracting visitors to the terrace and garden.

The Museum's accreditation review has been completed by the Arts Council England and been awarded full accreditation.

6. Russell-Cotes Art Gallery & Museum Acquisitions, Loans and Disposals Report

21 - 56

To note the new acquisitions to the Collection (material owned and held in trust by the Russell-Cotes Art Gallery & Museum charity in accordance with its charitable objectives) and the loan of material to other institutions (ie public art galleries and museums) and to approve the disposal of items in

the Collection which do not meet the Museum's Core Offer in accordance with the Museums Association Code of Ethics.

7. Report on the progress of the 'Repair and Renewal 2' Project funded by Arts Council England (ACE) Museum Estates and Development (MEND) Fund Round 4

57 - 62

The Russell-Cotes has received £1,500,817 from ACE MEND 4, which together with £359,317 of match funding from CIL and legacies will provide a total project grant of £1,860,134 to fund major urgent repairs to the Russell-Cotes building, services and interiors.

Payment conditions have now been met to enable the first instalment to be paid. Conservation architects, Purcell have been appointed after an open tender and design work is underway.

The project is due for completion by November 2027.

8. Russell-Cotes Art Gallery& Museum Update on Progress to Independence

To follow

The Charity Commission and Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) have agreed to the Russell-Cotes charity giving Public Notice of the Scheme in the next step of the governance change. DCMS and Charity Commission have indicated that they are working towards a vesting day of 1 April 2026 but it is subject to parliamentary time.

Other work is being progressed such as arrangements for the transfer of assets, TUPE of staff etc with the new corporate trustee, RCAGM Sole Trustee Ltd.

BCP Council presumed a 1 October 2025 deadline for externalisation which has now been exceeded. Consequently, there is no revenue budget for the museum beyond 30 September 2025 and the council proposes that the lump sum of £2.25million agreed for the new entity to give it time to become financially sustainable, be used from 1 October to fund the Museum's revenue costs from this point whilst still within the Council.

However, the report outlining the financial deal, which was agreed by Cabinet on 7 February 2024 and by full Council on 20 February 2024 recognised that Vesting Day might be on 1 October 2025 but could take as long as 1 April 2026.

The Board of RCAGM Sole Trustee has expressed its concern at the council's position that funding should cease and requested a meeting with the Chief Executive to discuss the serious implications of this on the future viability of the externalised museum.

9. Date of next meeting

To note the date of the scheduled meeting on 19 January 2026.

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.