

# Notice of Russell Cotes Art Gallery and Museum Management Committee

Date: Monday, 19 January 2026 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.bcp council.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?MId=6164>

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](mailto:rebekah.rhodes@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.bcp council.gov.uk](https://democracy.bcp council.gov.uk)

AIDAN DUNN  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

9 January 2026

**DEBATE**  
**NOT HATE**



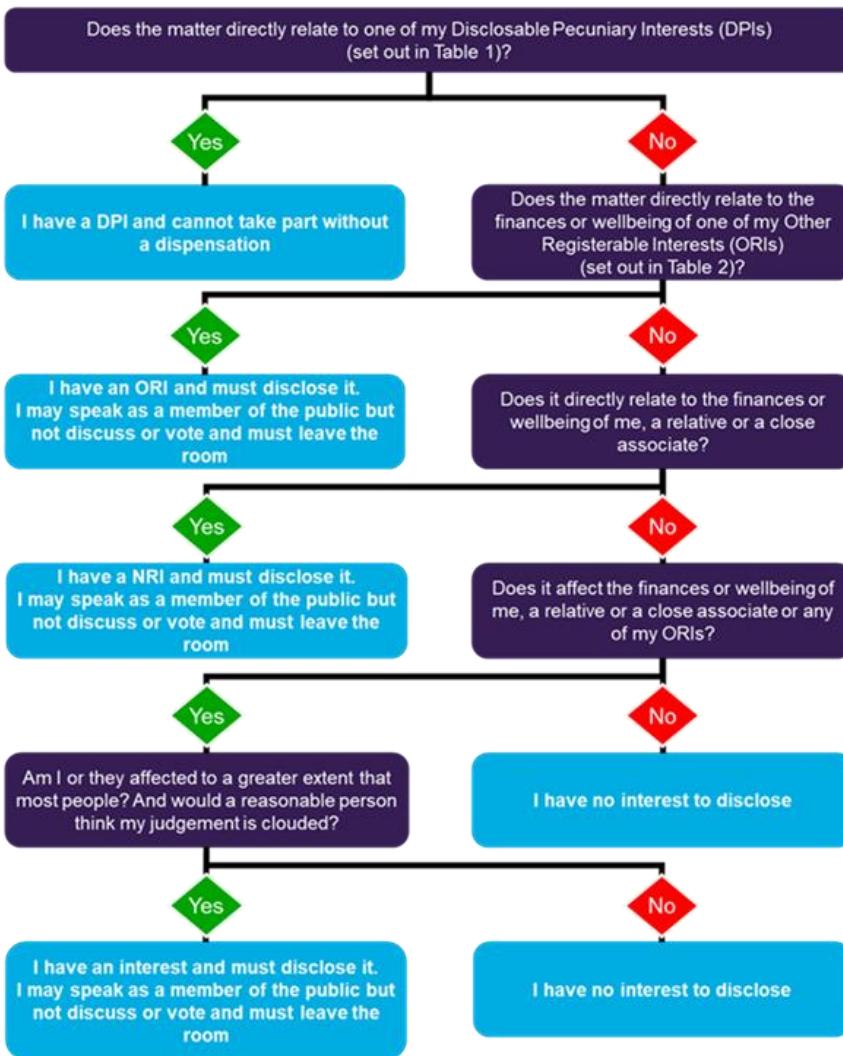
Available online and  
on the Mod.gov app



### 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

5 - 6

To confirm and sign as a correct record the minutes of the Meeting held on 27 October 2025.

## 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.bcp council.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CommitteeID=151&Info=1&bcr=1>

The deadline for the submission of public questions is midday Tuesday 13 January 3 clear working days before the meeting.

The deadline for the submission of a statement is midday Friday 16 January the working day before the meeting.

The deadline for the submission of a petition is Friday 2 January 10 working days before the meeting.

## ITEMS OF BUSINESS

## 5. Russell-Cotes Charity Accounts 2024/25

7 - 54

It is a statutory requirement to agree the Annual Financial Statements for the Russell-Cotes Art Gallery and Museum and submit to the Charity Commission by 31 January each year. The Management Committee are asked to review and agree the Financial Statements and the Letter of Representation prior to them being signed off by the Leader of the Council.

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

55 - 58

In December 2025, the Charity Commission informed the Russell-Cotes that the Department of Culture Media and Sport (DCMS) has made progress on the governance. It has appointed a team to work on the drafting of the Scheme and the scheduling of the associated Order of State through Parliament and consulted the relevant Minister. However, DCMS require some redrafting of the Scheme, which, though largely technical, will need agreement with BCP Council as Trustee before it can be scheduled for parliamentary approval. It will therefore not be able to meet the

anticipated deadline of 1 April 2026 for Vesting Day. An update is being sought on a projected Vesting Day.

A meeting was held in November 2025 between the RCAGM Management Committee and the BCP Council Chief Executive Officer (CEO). This discussed the impact of the Council's decision to use the £2.25million lump sum (originally agreed by Council on 20 February 2024 to fund the new trustee at Vesting Day) to fund revenue costs incurred from 1 October 2025 until externalisation takes place. The Management Committee expressed their concern that this decision could undermine the future financial viability of the independent charity and therefore put the process of externalisation at risk. A verbal update will be given at the meeting.

## **7. Date of next meeting**

To note the date of the scheduled meeting on Monday 1 June 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.