

# Notice of Audit and Governance Committee



Date: Thursday, 26 February 2026 at 6.00 pm

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

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## Membership:

### Chair:

Cllr E Connolly

### Vice Chair:

Cllr M Andrews

Cllr S Armstrong  
Cllr S Bartlett  
Cllr J Beesley

Cllr M Phipps  
Cllr V Slade  
Cllr M Tarling

Cllr T Trent

## Independent persons:

Lindy Jansen-VanVuuren

Samantha Acton

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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=6397>

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](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.bcpCouncil.gov.uk](http://democracy.bcpCouncil.gov.uk)

AIDAN DUNN  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

18 February 2026

**DEBATE  
NOT HATE**



Available online and  
on the Mod.gov app

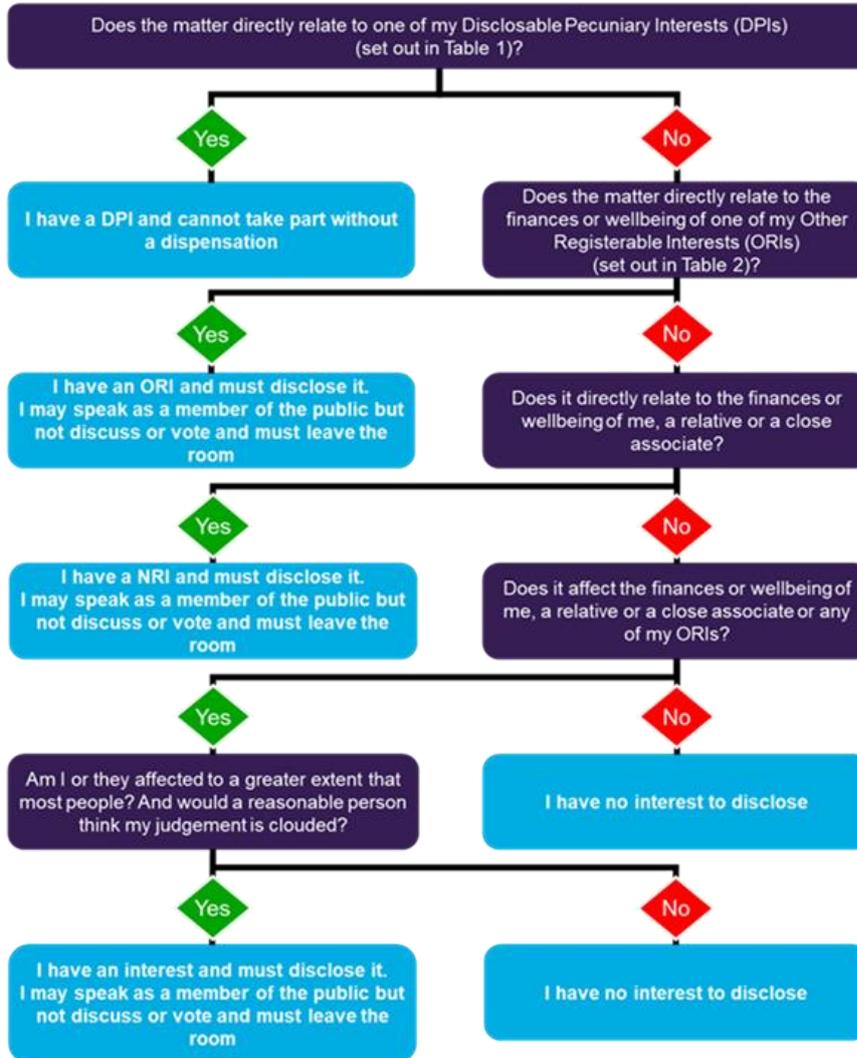


## Maintaining and promoting high standards of conduct

### 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**

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**

7 - 26

To confirm and sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 15 January 2026.

**a) Action Sheet**

27 - 32

To consider any outstanding actions from previous meetings.

**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.bpcouncil.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CommitteeID=151&Info=1&bcr=1>

The deadline for the submission of public questions is midday on Friday 20 February 2026 [midday 3 clear working days before the meeting].

The deadline for the submission of a statement is midday on Wednesday 25 February 2026 [midday the working day before the meeting].

The deadline for the submission of a petition is Thursday 12 February 2026 [10 working days before the meeting].

## ITEMS OF BUSINESS

**6. External Audit Finding Report and Statement of Accounts 2024/25**

33 - 242

The attached report sets out the findings of the Council's external auditor following their audit of the Council's statement of accounts for 2024/25 as well as presenting the final version of the statement of accounts.

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|---|------------------|
| <p><b>7. Artificial Intelligence (AI) - Governance and Risk Management</b></p> <p>To receive a presentation on the Council's approach to governance and risk management in relation to Artificial Intelligence (AI).</p>  | <p>243 - 252</p> |
| <p><b>8. Two Riversmeet Studios</b></p> <p>The report provides additional information requested from Audit &amp; Governance Committee regarding the financial considerations for capital borrowing to fund a two-storey extension to Two Riversmeet Leisure Centre (2RM) to address the identified need for dedicated studio space in Christchurch. The investment aims to enhance the centres health, fitness and cultural offer, increase membership and income whilst supporting community wellbeing and aligning with the Council's corporate strategy.</p> <p>NOTE: In relation to this item of business, the Committee is asked to consider the following resolution in relation to any discussion on exempt appendix 2, 3 and/or 5 to the report:</p> <p>"That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Act and that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs such interest in disclosing the information."</p> | <p>253 - 292</p> |
| <p><b>9. Risk Management Policy</b></p> <p>This report introduces the Council's new Risk Management Policy.</p> <p>The purpose of the review of the existing policy was to refresh and strengthen the council's framework for the identification, measurement, management, monitoring and reporting on risk.</p> <p>Whilst the policy principles have not been subject to significant change, in order to reflect the aspiration to continue to develop the risk management discipline, the new policy includes the plan to implement Enterprise Risk Management.</p> <p>The new policy sets out how risks will be reported including future reporting to this Committee.</p> <p>The new policy is included at Appendix 1.</p>  | <p>293 - 320</p> |
| <p><b>10. Financial Regulations - Annual evolution for the financial year 2026/27</b></p> <p>Evolutionary changes to the Council's Financial Regulations are summarised in this report and shown in red text throughout the Financial Regulations document which is shown at Appendix A.</p>  | <p>321 - 388</p> |

No material changes have been made to Part A to F and H, and Appendices of Financial Regulations.

Some very minor changes have been made in the glossary of terms.

More substantial changes were made last year to reflect procurement regulations reform. This year, in some cases throughout Part G there has been a need to refine wording to make regulations more explicitly clear to clarify Financial Regulations requirements.

11. **Annual Evolution (for the 2026/27 financial year) of the 'Anti-Fraud & Corruption Policy', the 'Whistleblowing Policy', the 'Declaration of Interests, Gifts & Hospitality Policy' (for Officers) and the 'Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) & Investigatory Powers Act**

389 - 494

An annual review of the Council's:

- Anti-Fraud & Corruption Policy,
- Whistleblowing Policy,
- Declaration of Interests, Gifts & Hospitality Policy (for Officers)
- Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) & Investigatory Powers Act (IPA) Policy

has taken place to ensure they are updated in line with best practice and legislation.

Some changes have been made to the Council's **Anti-Fraud & Corruption Policy** including an updated Chief Executive statement and added link to the Schools Financial Value Standards.

The **Whistleblowing Policy** has been updated with the inclusion of a formal officer decision record template to cover the course of action to be followed in accordance with Stage 3 (Initial response for a Formal Resolution). The link and summary guidance contained in the Academy Trust Handbook, in respect of required whistleblowing arrangements, has been updated.

Some changes have been made to the Council's **Declaration of Interests, Gifts & Hospitality Policy (for Officers)** which include additional guidance on declaring 'other employment' and defining responsibilities of line managers in assessing declarations made by employees. A requirement for line managers to pass completed Form 1's to the Service Director for their consideration has been added alongside the Service Director's responsibility to determine if decisions made by line managers are appropriate. Some further general guidance on the declaration form completion process has also been added.

The **Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) and Investigatory Powers Act (IPA) Policy** has been updated to include links to associated BCP Council strategies and policies.

12. **Appointment of Independent Persons**

To receive a verbal update on the appointment of independent persons to

the committee.

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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.