

Notice of Audit and Governance Committee

Date: Thursday, 3 September 2026 at 6.00 pm

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



Membership:

Chair:

Cllr E Connolly

Vice Chair:

Cllr M Andrews

Cllr S Bartlett
Cllr J Beesley
Cllr M Phipps

Cllr J Salmon
Cllr V Slade
Cllr M Tarling

Cllr T Trent

Independent persons:

Katherine Hewitt

Ilva Kana

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=6494>

If you would like any further information on the items to be considered at the meeting please contact: Democratic Services on 01202 096660 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

AIDAN DUNN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

25 August 2026

**DEBATE
NOT HATE**



Available online and
on the Mod.gov app

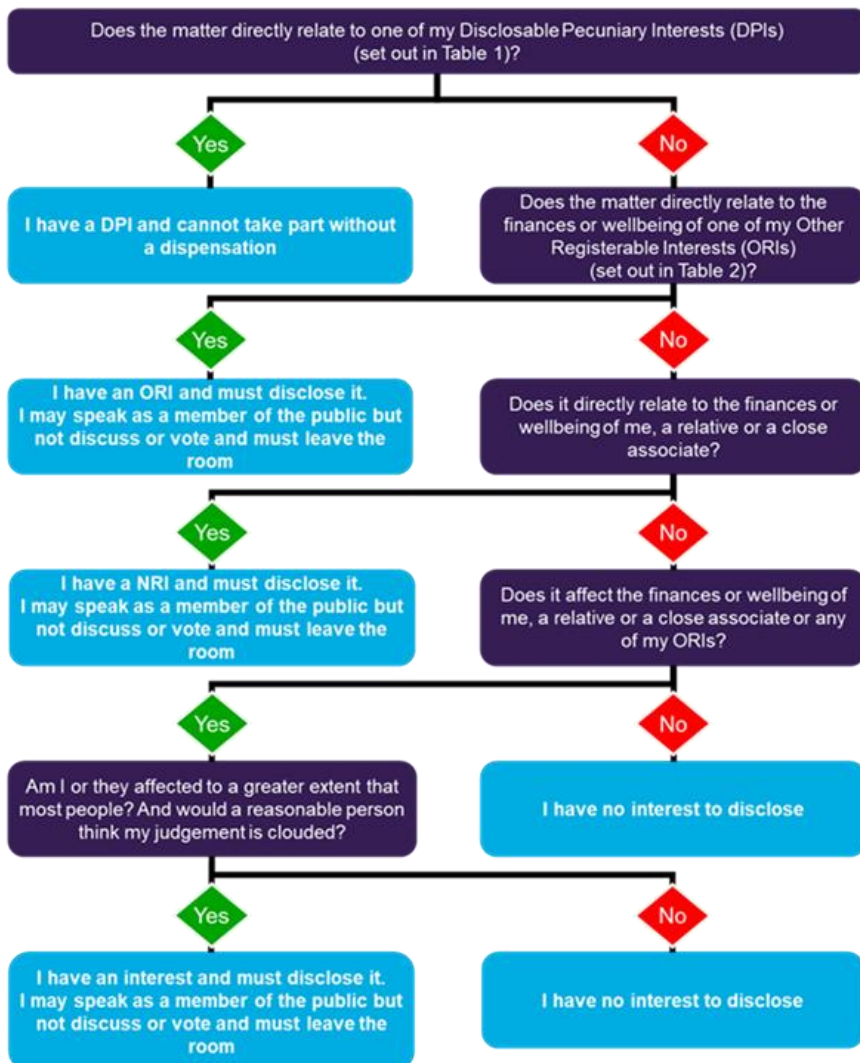


Maintaining and promoting high standards of conduct

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 16 July 2026.

a) Action and Recommendation Tracker

27 - 36

To consider any outstanding actions and recommendations 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.bcpccouncil.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CommitteeID=151&Info=1&bcr=1>

The deadline for the submission of public questions is midday on Thursday 27 August 2026 [midday 3 clear working days before the meeting].

The deadline for the submission of a statement is midday on Wednesday 2 September 2026 [midday the working day before the meeting].

The deadline for the submission of a petition is Wednesday 19 August 2026 [10 working days before the meeting].

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

6. **Review of the Council's Constitution - Recommendations of the Constitution Review Working Group - Planning Reforms**

37 - 114

This report seeks approval to amend the Council's Constitution to reflect the national scheme of delegation for local planning authority functions introduced by the Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025 and the Town and Country Planning (Discharge of Local Planning Authority Functions) (England) Regulations 2026, which come into force on 31 October 2026.

The Regulations significantly restrict the circumstances in which planning applications may be referred to Planning Committee and replace existing local referral mechanisms, including Ward Member call-ins and objection-based triggers. The report explains the distinction between Schedule 1 applications, which must be determined by officers, and Schedule 2 applications, which are presumed to be delegated unless the statutory gateway test is met and the nominated officer and nominated member agree referral to committee.

The recommended approach is to amend the Constitution to comply with the national scheme, establish nominated officer and nominated member arrangements, retain appropriate transparency through decision records and reporting, and provide clear information for Members and the public.

While the Council has limited discretion over the national requirements, the proposed amendments are intended to ensure lawful implementation, reduce the risk of legal challenge, and maintain effective, transparent and accountable planning decision-making.

7. **Council Owned Companies - Shareholder Governance**

To receive a presentation providing a deeper dive review of shareholder governance in relation to Council owned companies.

8. **Procurement and Contract Management – deeper dive into processes and arrangements for SMEs**

115 - 124

This report provides assurance regarding the Council's arrangements for procuring from, appointing and managing Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs).

The report considers two key governance questions:

1. How does the Council satisfy itself that SME suppliers are capable, financially resilient and appropriately controlled to deliver contracted outcomes?
2. How does the Council ensure that procurement processes do not create unnecessary barriers which disadvantage SMEs or restrict competition?

The report outlines the Council's current control framework and how it seeks to balance protection of public funds and service delivery with the objective of maintaining an accessible and competitive supplier

marketplace.

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.