

Notice of Cabinet

Date: Wednesday, 11 February 2026 at 2.30 pm

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



Membership:

Chairman:

Cllr M Earl

Vice Chairman:

Cllr M Cox

Cllr D Brown
Cllr R Burton
Cllr A Hadley

Cllr J Hanna
Cllr R Herrett
Cllr A Martin

Cllr S Moore
Cllr K Wilson

All Members of the Cabinet 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=6659>

If you would like any further information on the items to be considered at the meeting please contact: Sarah Culwick (01202 817615) on 01202 096660 or email democratic.services@bcp council.gov.uk

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

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

AIDAN DUNN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

3 February 2026

DEBATE
NOT HATE



Available online and
on the Mod.gov app

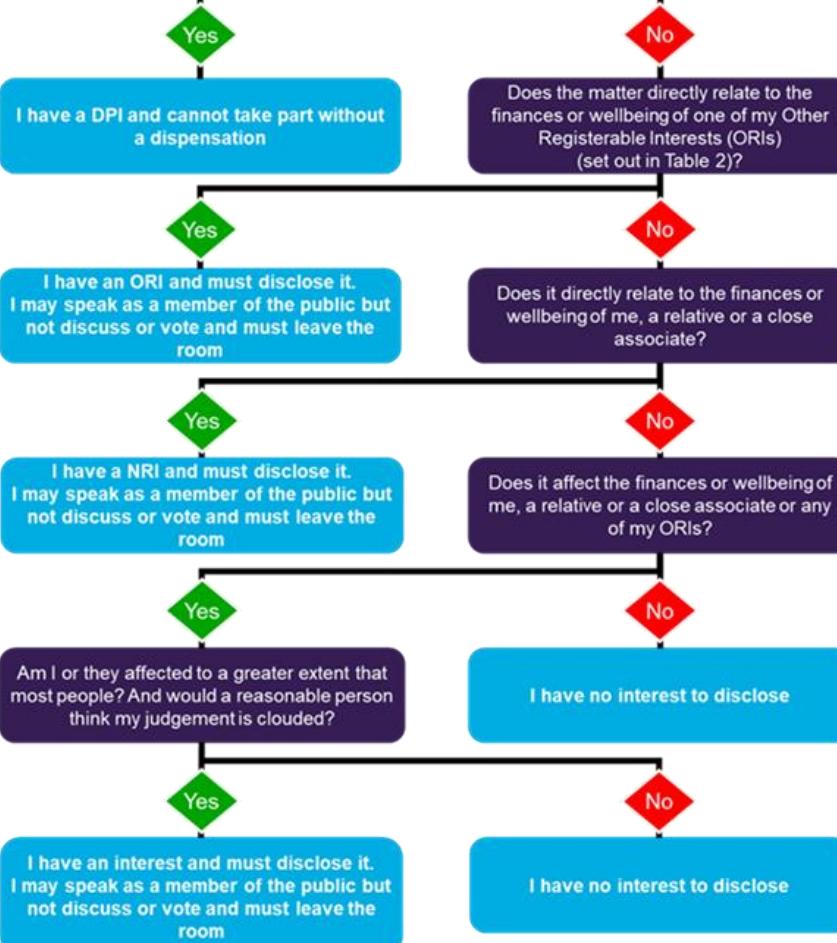


Declaring interests at meetings

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

Does the matter directly relate to one of my Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPIs) (set out in Table 1)?



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. 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.

3. Confirmation of Minutes

To Follow

To confirm and sign as a correct record the minutes of the Meeting held on 4 February 2026.

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 mid-day on Thursday 5 February 2026 [mid-day 3 clear working days before the meeting].

The deadline for the submission of a statement is mid-day on Tuesday 10 February 2026 [mid-day the working day before the meeting].

The deadline for the submission of a petition is Tuesday 27 January 2026 [10 working days before the meeting].

5. Recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committees

To consider recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny committees on items not otherwise included on the Cabinet Agenda.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

6. Budget 2026/27 and Medium-Term Financial Plan

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To set out for Cabinet's consideration and recommendation to Council the proposed 2026/27 budget and council tax based on.

- Increasing council tax by 4.99% in 2026/27 in line with the government's annual referendum threshold which can be broken down into a 2.99% basic increase and a 2% uplift by way of the Adult Social Care (ASC) precept.
- Implementation of the approved financial strategy including £14m of further savings, efficiencies, and additional income generation.
- Borrowing a further £95.7m to fund the Special Educational Needs and

Disability services revenue expenditure above the level of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) High Needs grant.

- Recognition that the council has technically been insolvent from the 1 April 2025 onwards as the accumulated deficit on the DSG is now greater than the total reserves held by the council, with a negative overall general fund position and is only protected by the legislative statutory override that allows the council to ignore this issue to 31 March 2028.

This report also provides the latest Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) covering the 3-year period to 31 March 2029.

It is also important to recognise that in the absence of government support for historic and accruing DSG deficits, the proposed 2026/27 budget has been drawn up based on the use of £4.8m of previously unearmarked reserves to present a legally balanced budget. This reduces unearmarked to be around 6% which is still above 5% which is widely regarded as a statutory minimum. The Council's Director of Finance advises that although the estimates used for the purposes of this budget are robust, subject to the list assumptions, the reserves should be considered inadequate based on the level of the DSG deficit and the ongoing risks faced by the council. His advice is to apply any resources announced by government as part of the final 2026/27 local government finance settlement to improve the financial health and sustainability of the council. Specifically, this may or may not include any of the following matters all designed to support the council's forecast £379m DSG deficit on the 31 March 2028.

- In response to a 6 January 2026 application by the Council for Exceptional Financial Support from the government.
 - Government permission to increase council tax by more than the 4.99% threshold limit.
 - Government permission to capitalise the £10.5m cost of borrowing to finance the DSG deficit in 2026/27.
- Any government support for historic or accruing DSG deficits.

7. Pokesdown Railway Station

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On 11 January 2022, the Council approved a contribution of up to £2.6m towards the Pokesdown Railway Station Improvement Project.

The original scope was expected to include replacement, or upgrade of the station building, a new forecourt with interchange facilities, CCTV and help point improvements, seating and shelter improvements in addition to converting the existing lift shafts to passenger use and repairing and painting the footbridge and canopies (all subject to available budget).

The project has not been delivered, detailed timescales and costs are undetermined, and the expected scope has been reduced to the lifts and canopies over the platforms only. At the same time, the cost of borrowing has increased.

In consideration of the above a recommendation is sought from Cabinet regarding the council commitment to the project.

8. Urgent Decisions taken by the Chief Executive in accordance with the Constitution

The Chief Executive to report on any decisions taken under urgency provisions in accordance with the Constitution.

9. Cabinet Forward Plan

To consider the latest version of the Cabinet Forward Plan for approval.

To Follow

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.