

Notice of Shadow Poole Town Council

Date: Tuesday, 24 March 2026 at 5.30 pm

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



Membership:

Chair:

Cllr O Walters

Vice-Chair:

Cllr S Aitkenhead

Cllr M Andrews
Cllr J Bagwell
Cllr D Brown
Cllr R Burton
Cllr J J Butt
Cllr J Challinor
Cllr A Chapmanlaw
Cllr J Clements
Cllr P Cooper
Cllr M Earl

Cllr M Gillett
Cllr C Goodall
Cllr A Hadley
Cllr B Hitchcock
Cllr M Howell
Cllr M Le Poidevin
Cllr D Logan
Cllr S Mackrow
Cllr C Matthews
Cllr P Miles

Cllr S Moore
Cllr E Pankhurst
Cllr R Pattinson-West
Cllr K Rampton
Cllr Dr F Rice
Cllr P Slade
Cllr T Trent
Cllr C Weight
Cllr G Wright

All Members of the Shadow Poole Town Council 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 attend this meeting.

If you would like any further information on the items to be considered at the meeting please contact: Democratic Services or email democratic.services@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

16 March 2026

**DEBATE
NOT HATE**



Available online and
on the Mod.gov app

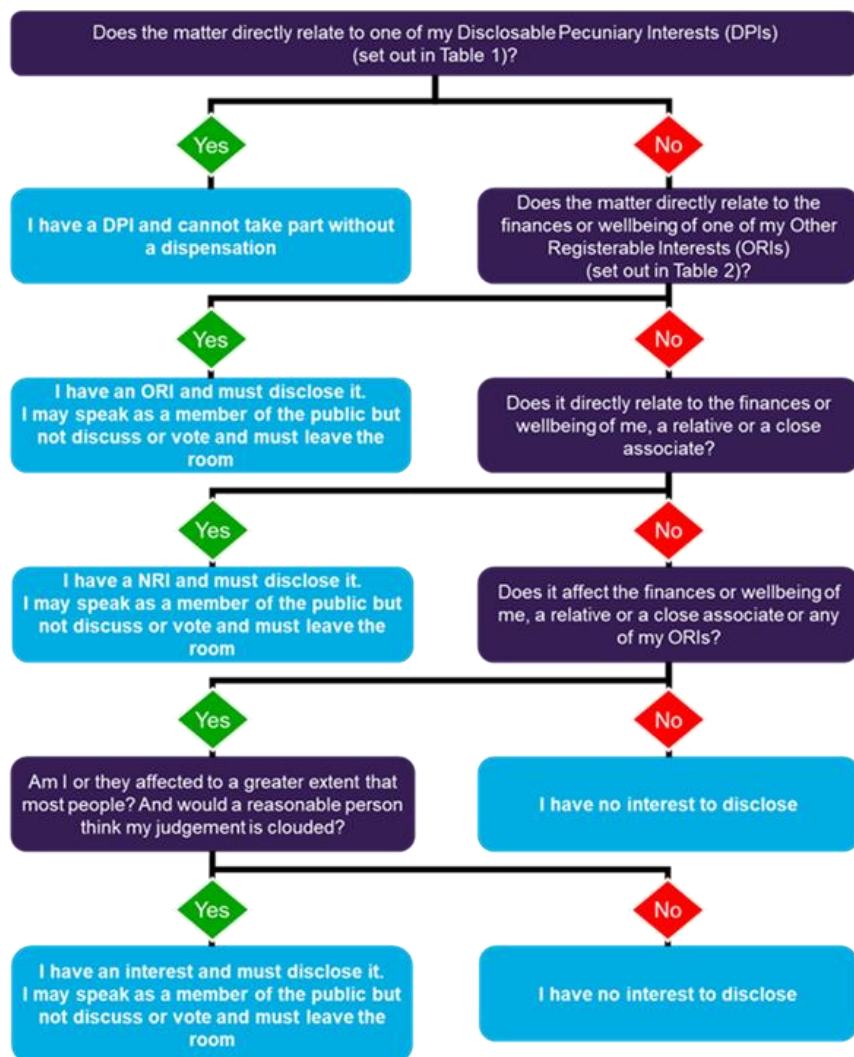


Maintaining and promoting high standards of conduct

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. 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

5 - 6

To confirm and sign as a correct record the minutes of the Meeting held on 24 February 2026.

4. Adoption of Initial Governance and Policy Documents

7 - 82

Poole Town Council will be established on 1 April 2026 and must have key governance arrangements in place to operate effectively from vesting day. This report seeks approval to adopt an initial set of governance and policy documents: Standing Orders (to govern how meetings are convened and decisions are made), Financial Regulations (to provide financial control and accountability, supported by the Responsible Finance Officer), the LGA Model Councillor Code of Conduct (aligned with BCP Council to provide clarity for dual-hatted Members and a consistent approach to standards complaints), and a Scheme of Delegation.

The proposed Scheme provides proportionate officer delegation from day one, including authority for the Town Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer to take necessary operational actions and to enter into Service Level Agreements with BCP Council for support services relating to allotments and civic support.

The recommended option is to adopt the appended documents, with subsequent adoption alongside other policies at the first Annual Poole Town Council meeting in May, and a review during the first year to reflect the Council's agreed committee structure and ways of working.

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.

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SHADOW POOLE TOWN COUNCIL

TUESDAY, 24TH FEBRUARY, 2026

Present: Councillor Oliver Walters in the Chair

Councillors Cllr S Aitkenhead (Vice-Chair),
Cllr D Brown, Cllr R Burton, Cllr M Earl, Cllr M Gillett,
Cllr C Goodall, Cllr A Hadley, Cllr E Harman,
Cllr M Howell, Cllr M Le Poidevin, Cllr S Mackrow, Cllr
S Moore, Cllr K Rampton, Cllr T Trent, Cllr C Weight
and Cllr G Wright

7 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Andrews, Challinor, Cooper, Logan, Miles and Rice.

8 Declarations of Interests

None.

9 Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 21 January 2026 be approved as a correct record.

Voting: Nem. Con.

10 LGPS Designation & Adoption of NALC/NJC Terms and Conditions

The Head of Democratic Services presented a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'A' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

The report sought approval for key employment and pension arrangements necessary to establish the new Poole Town Council and enable the recruitment of a suitably qualified Town Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer. Adoption of the National Joint Council (NJC) "Green Book" terms and conditions, together with associated NALC policies, was also recommended to provide a modern, lawful, and sector-standard employment framework.

The recommendations were moved, seconded, and when put to a vote it was:

RESOLVED that:-

- a) Poole Town Council shall participate in the Local Government Pension Scheme as a designating body;
- b) the post of Town Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer shall be eligible for membership of the Local Government Pension Scheme administered by Dorset County Pension Fund, with effect from 1 April 2026;
- c) the National Joint Council (NJC) "Green Book" Terms and Conditions of Employment and the associated NALC model employment policies be adopted for the post of Town Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer;
- d) the Head of Democratic Services and Deputy Monitoring Officer be authorised to enter to any agreements or contracts for supplies and services for the Town

Council which are deemed necessary for the effective operation of the Town Council.

Voting: F14: A0 (1 abstentions)

11 Shadow Poole Town Council - Authorisation of Expenditure

The Deputy Head of Democratic Services presented a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'B' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

The report requested that Members of the Shadow Poole Town Council consider proposed expenditure requests as set out in the report, and approve or reject the requests accordingly.

In addition to the expenditure requests set out, Members were apprised of an additional request totalling £1,935.56 for repairs to the replica Mayor's Badge.

Members discussed the expenditure requests, and each was moved, seconded, and voted on separately. The requests for expenditure in support of the Civic Service, the purchase of a Sheriff's Badge, and the repair of the replica Mayor's Badge were unanimously agreed.

With respect to the proposed Beating of the Land Bounds event, Cllr Earl moved an amendment that expenditure for the event be capped at £10,000 inclusive of the 10% contingency. In addition, the amendment specified that if there was to be a boundary stone installed at Upton Park, that this should be provided free of charge by a volunteer or removed from the proposed plan.

The proposed amendment was seconded, and when put to a vote, agreed.

Voting: F:14 A:3 (abstentions:0)

Members then considered the substantive motion which, when put to a vote, was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED:- that the Shadow Poole Town Council approve the proposed expenditure for the following:

- 1. Civic Service;**
- 2. Purchase of a Past Sheriff's Badge;**
- 3. Beating of the Land Bounds event (capped at £10k including contingency and without any payment towards a boundary stone); and**
- 4. Repair of replica Mayor's badge.**

Councillor D Brown arrived 18:25

Duration of the meeting: 6.00 - 6.46 pm

Chairman at the meeting on
Tuesday, 24 February 2026

SHADOW POOLE TOWN COUNCIL



Report subject	Adoption of Initial Governance and Policy Documents
Meeting date	24 March 2026
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	Poole Town Council will be established on 1 April 2026 and must have key governance arrangements in place to operate effectively from vesting day. This report seeks approval to adopt an initial set of governance and policy documents: Standing Orders (to govern how meetings are convened and decisions are made), Financial Regulations (to provide financial control and accountability, supported by the Responsible Finance Officer), the LGA Model Councillor Code of Conduct (aligned with BCP Council to provide clarity for dual-hatted Members and a consistent approach to standards complaints), and a Scheme of Delegation. The proposed Scheme provides proportionate officer delegation from day one, including authority for the Town Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer to take necessary operational actions and to enter into Service Level Agreements with BCP Council for support services relating to allotments and civic support. The recommended option is to adopt the appended documents, with subsequent adoption alongside other policies at the first Annual Poole Town Council meeting in May, and a review during the first year to reflect the Council's agreed committee structure and ways of working.
Recommendations	It is RECOMMENDED that: (a) the Standing Orders, as set out in appendix 1 to this report, be adopted; (b) the Financial Regulations, as set out in appendix 2 to this report, be adopted; (c) the LGA Model Code of Conduct, as set out in appendix 3 to this report, be adopted; (d) the Scheme of Delegation to Committees and Officers, as set out in appendix 4 to this report, be adopted;
Reason for recommendations	The recommended approach is to adopt the appended governance and policy documents now so that Poole Town Council has an agreed framework in place from vesting day to lawfully convene

	and conduct meetings, make decisions, and manage its finances with clear controls and accountability. Adopting the LGA Model Code of Conduct (aligned with BCP Council) provides clear and consistent standards for Members, including potential dual-hatted councillors, and supports a consistent approach to the handling of complaints. Adoption of the Scheme of Delegation will also ensure business continuity by enabling the Town Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer to take necessary operational actions and to enter into SLAs with BCP Council for support services relating to allotments and civic support, pending the Council's later decisions on its detailed committee structure.
Portfolio Holder(s):	Not applicable
Corporate Director	Aidan Dunn, Chief Executive
Report Authors	Richard Jones, Head of Democratic Services and Deputy Monitoring Officer
Wards	Not applicable
Classification	For Decision

Background

1. Poole Town Council will be formally established on 1 April 2026. To support the Council to operate effectively from day one and to meet legislative and good practice requirements, this report asks Members to adopt initial governance and policy documents, including Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, a Member Code of Conduct and a Scheme of Delegation.

Standing Orders and Financial Regulations

2. Standing Orders are the Council's rules for how meetings are run and decisions are made. They also set out key internal administrative arrangements and may refer to related policies.
3. Financial Regulations are a separate set of rules that govern the Council's financial management and accounting procedures, including key requirements for the Responsible Financial Officer.
4. Both documents are based on the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) model Standing Orders and model Financial Regulations, with local amendments to reflect the size and needs of the new Council.
5. The new Council will adopt these documents during at the Annual Council Meeting in May. The new Council will review these documents as it develops during its first year. The Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer will advise on the timing and any amendments required.

Model Code of Conduct

6. The Town Council must adopt a Code of Conduct for Members. It is proposed that the Council adopts the Local Government Association (LGA) Model Councillor Code of Conduct.
7. Adopting the same Model Code as Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP) Council will provide a consistent set of expectations for Members, particularly for “dual-hatted” councillors who serve on both authorities.
8. It will also support a consistent approach to the assessment and handling of complaints, by aligning the standards expected of Members with the arrangements already in place at BCP Council.

Scheme of Delegation

9. The Council is asked to adopt a Scheme of Delegation to enable day-to-day decisions to be taken efficiently and within an agreed framework.
10. The detailed committee structure and any sub-committee terms of reference will be matters for the new Town Council to consider and agree. The proposed Scheme of Delegation is intended to provide an initial and proportionate level of officer delegation from day one.
11. In particular, the Scheme delegates authority to the Town Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer to take necessary operational actions and to agree and enter into Service Level Agreements (SLAs) with Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP) Council for support services connected with the operation of allotments and the provision of civic support.

Options Appraisal

12. **Option 1 (Recommended): Adopt the proposed initial governance and policy documents (appendices).** This provides the new Town Council with a clear and compliant framework from day one, supports effective decision-making and financial control, and enables timely operational arrangements (including SLAs with BCP Council) to be agreed under the Scheme of Delegation. *Disadvantage:* minor local amendments may be needed once the Council's committee structure and ways of working are confirmed; this can be addressed through a review during the first year.
13. **Option 2: Defer adoption until after the Town Council elections/first annual meeting.** *Advantage:* allows Members to shape documents once the full governance arrangements are agreed. *Disadvantages:* creates a significant risk of governance failure in the period immediately after vesting day. Without adopted procedural rules (Standing Orders) the Council could be unable to convene and conduct meetings with confidence, and would be reliant on general/common law principles and ad hoc practice. This increases the risk of challenge, delay and inconsistency in early decisions, and weakens financial control and accountability at the point the Council first becomes operational.

Summary of financial implications

14. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Summary of legal implications

15. Town and parish councils are required to have appropriate arrangements in place for the transaction of business and the proper administration of their financial affairs. Standing Orders provide the procedural rules for convening and conducting meetings and making decisions; Financial Regulations (together with the appointment of a Responsible Financial Officer) set the framework for budgeting, accounting, payments and internal control; and the Council must adopt a Members' Code of Conduct and maintain arrangements for the registration and declaration of interests and the consideration of standards complaints. The Council may delegate functions to committees, sub-committees and officers, and the adoption of a Scheme of Delegation supports the lawful and efficient discharge of functions from vesting day, including authorising the Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer to take operational actions and to enter into Service Level Agreements with BCP Council for support services relating to allotments and civic support, within the limits set out in the appended scheme.

Summary of human resources implications

16. There are no human resources implications arising from this report.

Summary of sustainability impact

17. There are no sustainability impacts arising from this report.

Summary of public health implications

18. There are no public health implications arising from this report.

Summary of equality implications

19. There are no equality implications arising from this report.

Summary of risk assessment

20. The principal risks relate to the Council not having an effective governance framework in place from vesting day, which could lead to delay, inconsistency and challenge in early decision-making and financial administration. Adoption of the proposed documents mitigates these risks by providing clear procedural and financial controls, a standards framework and defined officer delegations to support business continuity (including agreeing SLAs with BCP Council for allotments and civic support). There remains a risk that minor amendments will be required once the Council's committee structure and working arrangements are confirmed; this will be managed through an early review in the first year, supported by Member/officer briefings and ongoing advice from the Town Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer.

Background papers

Published works

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Standing Orders
- Appendix 2 – Financial Regulations
- Appendix 3 – Code of Conduct
- Appendix 4 – Scheme of Delegation



Poole Town Council Standing Orders 2026

**Adopted by the Shadow Town Council for Poole on
24 March 2026**

Based on National Association of Local Councils 2025 Model Standing Orders.

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How to Use Standing Orders

Standing orders are the written rules for Poole Town Council. Standing orders are essential to regulate the proceedings of a meeting. The Council may also use standing orders to confirm or refer to various internal organisational and administrative arrangements. The standing orders of a council are not the same as the policies of a council but standing orders may refer to them.

Local councils operate within a wide statutory framework. These standing orders incorporate and reference many statutory requirements to which councils are subject. It is not possible for standing orders to contain or reference all the statutory or legal requirements which apply to local councils. For example, it is not practical for standing orders to document all obligations under data protection legislation. The statutory requirements to which a council is subject apply whether or not they are incorporated in a council's standing orders.

The standing orders do not include financial regulations. Financial regulations are standing orders to regulate and control the financial affairs and accounting procedures of a local council. The financial regulations, as opposed to the standing orders of a council, include most of the requirements relevant to the Council's Responsible Financial Officer. Financial regulations are available to councils in membership of NALC.

Additional Information

Standing orders that are in bold type contain legal and statutory requirements. It is recommended that councils adopt them without changing them or their meaning. Model standing orders not in bold are designed to help councils operate effectively but they do not contain statutory requirements so they may be adopted as drafted or amended to suit a council's needs. It is NALC's view that all model standing orders will generally be suitable for councils.

For convenience, the word "councillor" is used in standing orders and, unless the context suggests otherwise, includes a non-councillor with or without voting rights. Standing orders use gender-neutral language (e.g. "Chair").

1. Rules of Debate at Meetings

- a Motions on the agenda shall be considered in the order that they appear unless the order is changed at the discretion of the chair of the meeting.
- b A motion (including an amendment) shall not be progressed unless it has been moved and seconded.
- c A motion on the agenda that is not moved by its proposer may be treated by the chair of the meeting as withdrawn.
- d If a motion (including an amendment) has been seconded, it may be withdrawn by the proposer only with the consent of the seconder and the meeting.
- e An amendment is a proposal to remove or add words to a motion. It shall not negate the motion.
- f If an amendment to the original motion is carried, the original motion (as amended) becomes the substantive motion upon which further amendment(s) may be moved.
- g An amendment shall not be considered unless early verbal notice of it is given at the meeting and, if requested by the chair of the meeting, is expressed in writing to the chair.
- h A councillor may move an amendment to their own motion if agreed by the meeting. If a motion has already been seconded, the amendment shall be with the consent of the seconder and the meeting.
- i If there is more than one amendment to an original or substantive motion, the amendments shall be moved in the order directed by the chair of the meeting.
- j Subject to standing order 1(k), only one amendment shall be moved and debated at a time, the order of which shall be directed by the chair of the meeting.
- k One or more amendments may be discussed together if the chair of the meeting considers this expedient but each amendment shall be voted upon separately.
- l A councillor may not move more than one amendment to an original or substantive motion.

- m The mover of an amendment has no right of reply at the end of debate on it.
- n Where a series of amendments to an original motion are carried, the mover of the original motion shall have a right of reply either at the end of debate on the first amendment or at the very end of debate on the final substantive motion immediately before it is put to the vote.
- o Unless permitted by the chair of the meeting, a councillor may speak once in the debate on a motion except:
 - i. to speak on an amendment moved by another councillor;
 - ii. to move or speak on another amendment if the motion has been amended since he last spoke;
 - iii. to make a point of order;
 - iv. to give a personal explanation; or
 - v. to exercise a right of reply.
- p During the debate on a motion, a councillor may interrupt only on a point of order or a personal explanation and the councillor who was interrupted shall stop speaking. A councillor raising a point of order shall identify the standing order which he considers has been breached or specify the other irregularity in the proceedings of the meeting he is concerned by.
- q A point of order shall be decided by the chair of the meeting and their decision shall be final.
- r When a motion is under debate, no other motion shall be moved except:
 - i. to amend the motion;
 - ii. to proceed to the next business;
 - iii. to adjourn the debate;
 - iv. to put the motion to a vote;
 - v. to ask a person to be no longer heard or to leave the meeting;
 - vi. to refer a motion to a committee or sub-committee for consideration;
 - vii. to exclude the public and press;

- viii. to adjourn the meeting; or
- ix. to suspend particular standing order(s) excepting those which reflect mandatory statutory or legal requirements.
- s Before an original or substantive motion is put to the vote, the chair of the meeting shall be satisfied that the motion has been sufficiently debated and that the mover of the motion under debate has exercised or waived their right of reply.
- t Excluding motions moved under standing order 1(r), the contributions or speeches by a councillor shall relate only to the motion under discussion and shall not exceed 5 minutes without the consent of the chair of the meeting.

2. **DISORDERLY CONDUCT AT MEETINGS**

- a No person shall obstruct the transaction of business at a meeting or behave offensively or improperly. If this standing order is ignored, the chair of the meeting shall request such person(s) to moderate or improve their conduct.
- b If person(s) disregard the request of the chair of the meeting to moderate or improve their conduct, any councillor or the chair of the meeting may move that the person be no longer heard or be excluded from the meeting. The motion, if seconded, shall be put to the vote without discussion.
- c If a resolution made under standing order 2(b) is ignored, the chair of the meeting may take further reasonable steps to restore order or to progress the meeting. This may include temporarily suspending or closing the meeting.

3. **MEETINGS GENERALLY**

- Full Council meetings ●
- Committee meetings ●
- Sub-committee meetings ●

- a **Meetings shall not take place in premises which at the time of the meeting are used for the supply of alcohol, unless no other premises are available free of charge or at a reasonable cost.**
- b **The minimum three clear days for notice of a meeting does not include the day on which notice was issued, the day of the meeting, a Sunday, a day of the Christmas break, a day of the Easter break or of a bank holiday or a day appointed for public thanksgiving or mourning.**
- c **The minimum three clear days' public notice for a meeting does not include the day on which the notice was issued or the day of the meeting.**
- d **Meetings shall be open to the public unless their presence is prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted or for other special reasons. The public's exclusion from part or all of a meeting shall be by a resolution which shall give reasons for the public's exclusion.**
- e Members of the public may make representations, answer questions and give evidence at a meeting which they are entitled to attend in respect of the business on the agenda.
- f The period of time designated for public participation at a meeting in accordance with standing order 3(e) shall not exceed 30 minutes unless directed by the chair of the meeting.
- g Subject to standing order 3(f), a member of the public shall not speak for more than three minutes.
- h In accordance with standing order 3(e), a question shall not require a response at the meeting nor start a debate on the question. The chair of the meeting may direct that a written or oral response be given.
- i A person shall raise their hand when requesting to speak.
- j A person who speaks at a meeting shall direct their comments to the chair of the meeting.
- k Only one person is permitted to speak at a time. If more than one person wants to speak, the chair of the meeting shall direct the order of speaking.

- l **Subject to standing order 3(m), a person who attends a meeting is permitted to report on the meeting whilst the meeting is open to the public. To "report" means to film, photograph, make an audio recording of meeting proceedings, use any other means for enabling persons not present to see or hear the meeting as it takes place or later or to report or to provide oral or written commentary about the meeting so that the report or commentary is available as the meeting takes place or later to persons not present.**
- m **A person present at a meeting may not provide an oral report or oral commentary about a meeting as it takes place without permission.**
- n **The press shall be provided with reasonable facilities for the taking of their report of all or part of a meeting at which they are entitled to be present.**
- o **Subject to standing orders which indicate otherwise, anything authorised or required to be done by, to or before the Chair of the Council may in their absence be done by, to or before the Vice-Chair of the Council (if there is one).**
- p **The Chair of the Council, if present, shall preside at a meeting. If the Chair is absent from a meeting, the Vice-Chair of the Council (if there is one) if present, shall preside. If both the Chair and the Vice-Chair are absent from a meeting, a councillor as chosen by the councillors present at the meeting shall preside at the meeting.**
- q **Subject to a meeting being quorate, all questions at a meeting shall be decided by a majority of the councillors and non-councillors with voting rights present and voting.**
- r **The chair of a meeting may give an original vote on any matter put to the vote, and in the case of an equality of votes may exercise their casting vote whether or not he gave an original vote.**

See standing orders 5(h) and (i) for the different rules that apply in the election of the Chair of the Council at the annual meeting of the Council.

- s **Unless standing orders provide otherwise, voting on a question shall be by a show of hands. At the request of a**

councillor, the voting on any question shall be recorded so as to show whether each councillor present and voting gave their vote for or against that question. Such a request shall be made before moving on to the next item of business on the agenda.

- t The minutes of a meeting shall include an accurate record of the following:
- i. the time and place of the meeting;
 - ii. the names of councillors who are present and the names of councillors who are absent;
 - iii. interests that have been declared by councillors and non-councillors with voting rights;
 - iv. the grant of dispensations (if any) to councillors and non-councillors with voting rights;
 - v. whether a councillor or non-councillor with voting rights left the meeting when matters that they held interests in were being considered;
 - vi. if there was a public participation session; and
 - vii. the resolutions made.
- u **A councillor or a non-councillor with voting rights who has a**
- **disclosable pecuniary interest or another interest as set out in**
- **the Council's code of conduct in a matter being considered at**
- a meeting is subject to statutory limitations or restrictions**
- under the code on their right to participate and vote on that**
- matter.**
- v **No business may be transacted at a meeting unless at least**
- one-third of the whole number of members of the Council are**
- present and in no case shall the quorum of a meeting be less**
- than three.**

See standing order 4d(viii) for the quorum of a committee or sub-committee meeting.

- w **If a meeting is or becomes inquorate no business shall be transacted** and the meeting shall be closed. The business on the agenda for the meeting shall be adjourned to another meeting.
- x A meeting shall not exceed a period of two hours.

4. **Committees and Sub-Committees**

- a **Unless the Council determines otherwise, a committee may appoint a sub-committee whose terms of reference and members shall be determined by the committee.**
- b **The members of a committee may include non-councillors unless it is a committee which regulates and controls the finances of the Council.**
- c **Unless the Council determines otherwise, all the members of an advisory committee and a sub-committee of the advisory committee may be non-councillors.**
- d The Council may appoint standing committees or other committees as may be necessary, and:
 - i. shall determine their terms of reference;
 - ii. shall determine the number and time of the ordinary meetings of a standing committee up until the date of the next annual meeting of the Council;
 - iii. shall permit a committee, other than in respect of the ordinary meetings of a committee, to determine the number and time of its meetings;
 - iv. shall, subject to standing orders 4(b) and (c), appoint and determine the terms of office of members of such a committee;
 - v. may, subject to standing orders 4(b) and (c), appoint and determine the terms of office of the substitute members to a committee whose role is to replace the ordinary members at a meeting of a committee if the ordinary members of the committee confirm to the Proper Officer 24 hours before the meeting that they are unable to attend;
 - vi. shall, after it has appointed the members of a standing committee, appoint the chair of the standing committee;

- vii. shall permit a committee other than a standing committee, to appoint its own chair at the first meeting of the committee;
- viii. shall determine the place, notice requirements and quorum for a meeting of a committee and a sub-committee which, in both cases, shall be no less than three;
- ix. shall determine if the public may participate at a meeting of a committee;
- x. shall determine if the public and press are permitted to attend the meetings of a sub-committee and also the advance public notice requirements, if any, required for the meetings of a sub-committee;
- xi. shall determine if the public may participate at a meeting of a sub-committee that they are permitted to attend; and
- xii. may dissolve a committee or a sub-committee.

5. Ordinary Council Meetings

- a **In an election year, the annual meeting of the Council shall be held on or within 14 days following the day on which the councillors elected take office.**
- b **In a year which is not an election year, the annual meeting of the Council shall be held on such day in May as the Council decides.**
- c **If no other time is fixed, the annual meeting of the Council shall take place at 6pm.**
- d **In addition to the annual meeting of the Council, at least three other ordinary meetings shall be held in each year on such dates and times as the Council decides.**
- e **The first business conducted at the annual meeting of the Council shall be the election of the Chair and Vice-Chair (if there is one) of the Council.**
- f **The Chair of the Council, unless he has resigned or becomes disqualified, shall continue in office and preside at the annual meeting until their successor is elected at the next annual meeting of the Council.**
- g **The Vice-Chair of the Council, if there is one, unless he resigns**

or becomes disqualified, shall hold office until immediately after the election of the Chair of the Council at the next annual meeting of the Council.

- h **In an election year, if the current Chair of the Council has not been re-elected as a member of the Council, he shall preside at the annual meeting until a successor Chair of the Council has been elected. The current Chair of the Council shall not have an original vote in respect of the election of the new Chair of the Council but shall give a casting vote in the case of an equality of votes.**
- i **In an election year, if the current Chair of the Council has been re-elected as a member of the Council, he shall preside at the annual meeting until a new Chair of the Council has been elected. He may exercise an original vote in respect of the election of the new Chair of the Council and shall give a casting vote in the case of an equality of votes.**
- j Following the election of the Chair of the Council and Vice-Chair (if there is one) of the Council at the annual meeting, the business shall include:
 - i. **In an election year, delivery by the Chair of the Council and councillors of their acceptance of office forms unless the Council resolves for this to be done at a later date. In a year which is not an election year, delivery by the Chair of the Council of their acceptance of office form unless the Council resolves for this to be done at a later date;**
 - ii. Confirmation of the accuracy of the minutes of the last meeting of the Council;
 - iii. Receipt of the minutes of the last meeting of a committee;
 - iv. Consideration of the recommendations made by a committee;
 - v. Review of delegation arrangements to committees, sub-committees, staff and other local authorities;
 - vi. Review of the terms of reference for committees;
 - vii. Appointment of members to existing committees;
 - viii. Appointment of any new committees in accordance with standing order 4;
 - ix. Review and adoption of appropriate standing orders and financial

regulations;

- x. Review of arrangements (including legal agreements) with other local authorities, not-for-profit bodies and businesses.
- xi. Review of representation on or work with external bodies and arrangements for reporting back;
- xii. In an election year, to make arrangements with a view to the Council becoming eligible to exercise the general power of competence in the future;
- xiii. Review of inventory of land and other assets including buildings and office equipment;
- xiv. Confirmation of arrangements for insurance cover in respect of all insurable risks;
- xv. Review of the Council's and/or staff subscriptions to other bodies;
- xvi. Review of the Council's complaints procedure;
- xvii. Review of the Council's policies, procedures and practices in respect of its obligations under freedom of information and data protection legislation (*see also standing orders 11, 20 and 21*);
- xviii. Review of the Council's policy for dealing with the press/media;
- xix. Review of the Council's employment policies and procedures;
- xx. Review of the Council's expenditure incurred under s.137 of the Local Government Act 1972 or the general power of competence.
- xxi. Determining the time and place of ordinary meetings of the Council up to and including the next annual meeting of the Council.

6. Extraordinary Meetings of The Council, Committees and Sub-Committees

- a **The Chair of the Council may convene an extraordinary meeting of the Council at any time.**
- b **If the Chair of the Council does not call an extraordinary meeting of the Council within seven days of having been requested in writing to do so by two councillors, any two councillors may convene an extraordinary meeting of the Council. The public notice giving the time, place and agenda for**

such a meeting shall be signed by the two councillors.

- c The chair of a committee or a sub-committee may convene an extraordinary meeting of the committee or the sub-committee at any time.
- d If the chair of a committee or a sub-committee does not call an extraordinary meeting within seven days of having been requested to do so by two members of the committee or the sub-committee, any two members of the committee or the sub-committee may convene an extraordinary meeting of the committee or a sub-committee.

7. Previous Resolutions

- a A resolution shall not be reversed within six months except either by a special motion, which requires written notice by at least seven councillors to be given to the Proper Officer in accordance with standing order 9, or by a motion moved in pursuance of the recommendation of a committee or a sub-committee.
- b When a motion moved pursuant to standing order 7(a) has been disposed of, no similar motion may be moved for a further six months.

8. Voting on Appointments

- a Where more than two persons have been nominated for a position to be filled by the Council and none of those persons has received an absolute majority of votes in their favour, the name of the person having the least number of votes shall be struck off the list and a fresh vote taken. This process shall continue until a majority of votes is given in favour of one person. A tie in votes may be settled by the casting vote exercisable by the chair of the meeting.

9. Motions for a Meeting that Require Written Notice to be Given to The Proper Officer

- a A motion shall relate to the responsibilities of the meeting for which it is tabled and in any event shall relate to the performance of the Council's statutory functions, powers and obligations or an issue which specifically affects the Council's area or its residents.
- b No motion may be moved at a meeting unless it is on the agenda and the mover has given written notice of its wording to the Proper Officer at least nine clear days before the meeting. Clear days do not include the day of the notice or the day of the meeting.

- c The Proper Officer may, before including a motion on the agenda received in accordance with standing order 9(b), correct obvious grammatical or typographical errors in the wording of the motion.
- d If the Proper Officer considers the wording of a motion received in accordance with standing order 9(b) is not clear in meaning, the motion shall be rejected until the mover of the motion resubmits it, so that it can be understood, in writing, to the Proper Officer at least seven clear days before the meeting.
- e If the wording or subject of a proposed motion is considered improper, the Proper Officer shall consult with the chair of the forthcoming meeting or, as the case may be, the councillors who have convened the meeting, to consider whether the motion shall be included in the agenda or rejected.
- f The decision of the Proper Officer as to whether or not to include the motion on the agenda shall be final.
- g Motions received shall be recorded and numbered in the order that they are received.
- h Motions rejected shall be recorded with an explanation by the Proper Officer of the reason for rejection.

10. Motions at a Meeting that do not Require Written Notice

- a The following motions may be moved at a meeting without written notice to the Proper Officer:
 - i. to correct an inaccuracy in the draft minutes of a meeting;
 - ii. to move to a vote;
 - iii. to defer consideration of a motion;
 - iv. to refer a motion to a particular committee or sub-committee;
 - v. to appoint a person to preside at a meeting;
 - vi. to change the order of business on the agenda;
 - vii. to proceed to the next business on the agenda;
 - viii. to require a written report;
 - ix. to appoint a committee or sub-committee and their members;

- x. to extend the time limits for speaking;
- xi. to exclude the press and public from a meeting in respect of confidential or other information which is prejudicial to the public interest;
- xii. to not hear further from a councillor or a member of the public;
- xiii. to exclude a councillor or member of the public for disorderly conduct;
- xiv. to temporarily suspend the meeting;
- xv. to suspend a particular standing order (unless it reflects mandatory statutory or legal requirements);
- xvi. to adjourn the meeting; or
- xvii. to close the meeting.

11. **Management of Information**

See also standing order 20.

- a **The Council shall have in place and keep under review, technical and organisational measures to keep secure information (including personal data) which it holds in paper and electronic form. Such arrangements shall include deciding who has access to personal data and encryption of personal data.**
- b **The Council shall have in place, and keep under review, policies for the retention and safe destruction of all information (including personal data) which it holds in paper and electronic form. The Council's retention policy shall confirm the period for which information (including personal data) shall be retained or if this is not possible the criteria used to determine that period (e.g. the Limitation Act 1980).**
- c **The agenda, papers that support the agenda and the minutes of a meeting shall not disclose or otherwise undermine confidential information or personal data without legal justification.**
- d **Councillors, staff, the Council's contractors and agents shall not disclose confidential information or personal data without legal justification.**

12. **Draft Minutes**

Full Council meetings	●
Committee meetings	●
Sub-committee meetings	●

- a If the draft minutes of a preceding meeting have been served on councillors with the agenda to attend the meeting at which they are due to be approved for accuracy, they shall be taken as read.
- b There shall be no discussion about the draft minutes of a preceding meeting except in relation to their accuracy. A motion to correct an inaccuracy in the draft minutes shall be moved in accordance with standing order 10(a)(i).
- c The accuracy of draft minutes, including any amendment(s) made to them, shall be confirmed by resolution and shall be signed by the chair of the meeting and stand as an accurate record of the meeting to which the minutes relate.
- d If the chair of the meeting does not consider the minutes to be an accurate record of the meeting to which they relate, he shall sign the minutes and include a paragraph in the following terms or to the same effect:

“The chair of this meeting does not believe that the minutes of the meeting of the () held on [date] in respect of () were a correct record but this view was not upheld by the meeting and the minutes are confirmed as an accurate record of the proceedings.”
- e Subject to the publication of draft minutes in accordance with standing order 12(e) and standing order 20(a) and following a resolution which confirms the accuracy of the minutes of a meeting, the draft minutes or recordings of the meeting for which approved minutes exist shall be destroyed.

13. **Code of Conduct and Dispensations**

See also standing order 3(u).

- a All councillors and non-councillors with voting rights shall observe the code of conduct adopted by the Council.
- b Unless they have been granted a dispensation, a councillor or non-councillor with voting rights shall withdraw from a meeting when it is considering a matter in which he has a disclosable pecuniary interest. They may return to the meeting after it has considered the matter in which he had the interest.
- c Unless they have been granted a dispensation, a councillor or non-councillor with voting rights shall withdraw from a meeting when it is considering a matter in which he has another interest if so required by the Council's code of conduct. They may return to the meeting after it has considered the matter in which they had the interest.
- d **Dispensation requests shall be in writing and submitted to the Proper Officer** as soon as possible before the meeting, or failing that, at the start of the meeting for which the dispensation is required.
- e A decision as to whether to grant a dispensation shall be made by the Proper Officer and that decision is final.
- f A dispensation request shall confirm:
 - i. the description and the nature of the disclosable pecuniary interest or other interest to which the request for the dispensation relates;
 - ii. whether the dispensation is required to participate at a meeting in a discussion only or a discussion and a vote;
 - iii. the date of the meeting or the period (not exceeding four years) for which the dispensation is sought; and
 - iv. an explanation as to why the dispensation is sought.
- g Subject to standing orders 13(d) and (f), a dispensation request shall be considered by the Proper Officer before the meeting or, if this is not possible, at the start of the meeting for which the dispensation is required.
- h **A dispensation may be granted in accordance with standing order 13(e) if having regard to all relevant circumstances any of the following apply:**
 - i. **without the dispensation the number of persons prohibited from participating in the particular business would be so great a proportion of the meeting transacting the business**

as to impede the transaction of the business;

- ii. granting the dispensation is in the interests of persons living in the Council's area; or**
- iii. it is otherwise appropriate to grant a dispensation.**

14. Code of Conduct Complaints

- a Upon notification by Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council that a councillor or non-councillor with voting rights has breached the Council's code of conduct, the Council shall consider what, if any, action to take against them. Such action excludes disqualification or suspension from office.**

15. Proper Officer

- a The Proper Officer shall be either (i) the clerk or (ii) other staff member(s) nominated by the Council to undertake the work of the Proper Officer when the Proper Officer is absent.
- b The Proper Officer shall:
 - i. **at least three clear days before a meeting of the council, a committee or a sub-committee,**
 - **serve on councillors by delivery or post at their residences or by email authenticated in such manner as the Proper Officer thinks fit, a signed summons confirming the time, place and the agenda (provided the councillor has consented to service by email), and**
 - **Provide, in a conspicuous place, public notice of the time, place and agenda (provided that the public notice with agenda of an extraordinary meeting of the Council convened by councillors is signed by them).**

See standing order 3(b) for the meaning of clear days for a meeting of a full council and standing order 3(c) for the meaning of clear days for a meeting of a committee;

- ii. subject to standing order 9, include on the agenda all motions in the order received unless a councillor has given written notice at least seven days before the meeting confirming their withdrawal of it;

- iii. convene a meeting of the Council for the election of a new Chair of the Council, occasioned by a casual vacancy in their office;
- iv. **facilitate inspection of the minute book by local government electors;**
- v. **receive and retain copies of byelaws made by other local authorities;**
- vi. hold acceptance of office forms from councillors;
- vii. hold a copy of every councillor's register of interests;
- viii. assist with responding to requests made under freedom of information legislation and rights exercisable under data protection legislation, in accordance with the Council's relevant policies and procedures;
- ix. liaise, as appropriate, with the Council's Data Protection Officer (if there is one);
- x. receive and send general correspondence and notices on behalf of the Council except where there is a resolution to the contrary;
- xi. assist in the organisation of, storage of, access to, security of and destruction of information held by the Council in paper and electronic form subject to the requirements of data protection and freedom of information legislation and other legitimate requirements (e.g. the Limitation Act 1980);
- xii. arrange for legal deeds to be executed;
(*see also standing order 23*);
- xiii. arrange or manage the prompt authorisation, approval, and instruction regarding any payments to be made by the Council in accordance with its financial regulations;
- xiv. record every planning application notified to the Council and the Council's response to the local planning authority in a book for such purpose;
- xv. refer a planning application received by the Chair or in their absence Vice-Chair (if there is one) of the Planning Committee within two working days of receipt to facilitate an extraordinary meeting if the nature of a planning application requires consideration before the next ordinary meeting of the committee;

- xvi. manage access to information about the Council via the publication scheme; and
- xvii. retain custody of the seal of the Council (if there is one) which shall not be used without a resolution to that effect.
(see also standing order 23).

16. Responsible Financial Officer

- a The Council shall appoint appropriate staff member(s) to undertake the work of the Responsible Financial Officer when the Responsible Financial Officer is absent.

17. Accounts and Accounting Statements

- a "Proper practices" in standing orders refer to the most recent version of "Governance and Accountability for Local Councils – a Practitioners' Guide".
- b All payments by the Council shall be authorised, approved and paid in accordance with the law, proper practices and the Council's Financial Regulations.
- c The Responsible Financial Officer shall supply to each councillor as soon as practicable after 30 June, 30 September and 31 December in each year a statement to summarise:
 - i. the Council's receipts and payments (or income and expenditure) for each quarter;
 - ii. the Council's aggregate receipts and payments (or income and expenditure) for the year to date;
 - iii. the balances held at the end of the quarter being reported and which includes a comparison with the budget for the financial year and highlights any actual or potential overspends.
- d As soon as possible after the financial year end at 31 March, the Responsible Financial Officer shall provide:
 - i. each councillor with a statement summarising the Council's receipts and payments (or income and expenditure) for the last quarter and the year to date for information; and
 - ii. to the Council the accounting statements for the year in the form of Section 2 of the annual governance and accountability return, as

required by proper practices, for consideration and approval.

- e The year-end accounting statements shall be prepared in accordance with proper practices and apply the form of accounts determined by the Council (receipts and payments, or income and expenditure) for the year to 31 March. A completed draft annual governance and accountability return shall be presented to all councillors at least 14 days prior to anticipated approval by the Council. The annual governance and accountability return of the Council, which is subject to external audit, including the annual governance statement, shall be presented to the Council for consideration and formal approval before 30 June.

18. Financial Controls and Procurement

- a. The Council shall consider and approve financial regulations drawn up by the Responsible Financial Officer, which shall include detailed arrangements in respect of the following:
 - i. the keeping of accounting records and systems of internal controls;
 - ii. the assessment and management of financial risks faced by the Council;
 - iii. the work of the independent internal auditor in accordance with proper practices and the receipt of regular reports from the internal auditor, which shall be required at least annually;
 - iv. the inspection and copying by councillors and local electors of the Council's accounts and/or orders of payments; and
 - v. whether contracts with an estimated value below £60,000 due to special circumstances are exempt from a tendering process or procurement exercise.
- b. Financial regulations shall be reviewed regularly and at least annually for fitness of purpose.
- c. Subject to additional requirements in the financial regulations of the Council, the tender process for contracts for the supply of goods, materials, services or the execution of works shall include, as a minimum, the following steps:
 - i. a specification for the goods, materials, services or the execution of works shall be drawn up;

- ii. an invitation to tender shall be drawn up to confirm (i) the Council's specification (ii) the time, date and address for the submission of tenders (iii) the date of the Council's written response to the tender and (iv) the prohibition on prospective contractors contacting councillors or staff to encourage or support their tender outside the prescribed process;
 - iii. tenders are to be submitted in writing in a sealed marked envelope addressed to the Proper Officer;
 - iv. tenders shall be opened by the Proper Officer in the presence of at least one councillor after the deadline for submission of tenders has passed;
 - v. tenders are to be reported to and considered by the appropriate meeting of the Council or a committee or sub-committee with delegated responsibility.
- d. Neither the Council, nor a committee or a sub-committee with delegated responsibility for considering tenders, is bound to accept the lowest value tender.
- e. **Where the value of a contract is likely to exceed the threshold specified by the Government from time to time, the Council must consider whether the contract is subject to the requirements of the current procurement legislation and, if so, the Council must comply with procurement rules. NALC's procurement guidance contains further details.**

19. Handling Staff Matters

- a A matter personal to a member of staff that is being considered by a meeting of Council or relevant committee, sub-committee is subject to standing order 11.
- b Subject to the Council's policy regarding absences from work, the Town Clerk shall notify the chair of the relevant committee or the relevant sub-committee or, if they are not available, the vice-chair (if there is one) of the relevant committee or the relevant sub-committee of their absence occasioned by illness or other reason and that person shall report such absence to the relevant committee or the relevant sub-committee at its next meeting.
- c At least three members of the relevant committee for handling staffing

matters shall upon a resolution conduct a review of the performance and annual appraisal of the work of the Town Clerk. The reviews and appraisal shall be reported in writing and are subject to approval by resolution by relevant committee or the relevant sub-committee.

- d Subject to the Council's policy regarding the handling of grievance matters, the Town Clerk shall contact the chair of the relevant committee or the relevant sub-committee or in their absence, the vice-chair of the relevant committee or the relevant sub-committee in respect of an informal or formal grievance matter, and this matter shall be reported back and progressed by resolution of the relevant committee or the relevant sub-committee.
- e Subject to the Council's policy regarding the handling of grievance matters, if an informal or formal grievance matter raised by Town Clerk relates to the chair or vice-chair of the relevant committee or the relevant sub-committee, this shall be communicated to another member of relevant committee or the relevant sub-committee, which shall be reported back and progressed by resolution of the relevant committee or the relevant sub-committee.
- f Any persons responsible for all or part of the management of staff shall treat as confidential the written records of all meetings relating to their performance, capabilities, grievance or disciplinary matters.
- g In accordance with standing order 11(a), persons with line management responsibilities shall have access to staff records referred to in standing order 19(f).

20. Responsibilities to Provide Information

See also standing order 21.

- a **In accordance with freedom of information legislation, the Council shall publish information in accordance with its publication scheme and respond to requests for information held by the Council.**
- b **The Council, shall publish information in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government (Transparency Requirements) (England) Regulations 2015.**

21. **Responsibilities Under Data Protection Legislation**

(Below is not an exclusive list).

See also standing order 11.

- a The Council may appoint a Data Protection Officer.
- b **The Council shall have policies and procedures in place to respond to an individual exercising statutory rights concerning their personal data.**
- c **The Council shall have a written policy in place for responding to and managing a personal data breach.**
- d **The Council shall keep a record of all personal data breaches comprising the facts relating to the personal data breach, its effects and the remedial action taken.**
- e **The Council shall ensure that information communicated in its privacy notice(s) is in an easily accessible and available form and kept up to date.**
- f **The Council shall maintain a written record of its processing activities.**

22. **Relations with The Press/Media**

- a Requests from the press or other media for an oral or written comment or statement from the Council, its councillors or staff shall be handled in accordance with the Council's policy in respect of dealing with the press and/or other media.

23. **Execution and Sealing of Legal Deeds**

See also standing orders 15(b)(xii) and (xvii).

- a A legal deed shall not be executed on behalf of the Council unless authorised by a resolution.
- b **Subject to standing order 23(a), the Council's common seal shall alone be used for sealing a deed required by law. It shall be applied by the Proper Officer in the presence of two councillors who shall sign the deed as witnesses.**
- c *Until a Seal is obtained* **Subject to standing order 23(a), any two**

councillors may sign, on behalf of the Council, any deed required by law and the Proper Officer shall witness their signatures.

24. Communicating with Unitary Councillors

- a An invitation to attend a meeting of the Council shall be sent, together with the agenda, to the ward councillor(s) of the Unitary Council representing the area of the Council.
- b Unless the Council determines otherwise, a copy of each letter sent to the Unitary Council shall be sent to the ward councillor(s) representing the area of the Council.

25. Restrictions on Councillor Activities

- a. Unless duly authorised no councillor shall:
 - i. inspect any land and/or premises which the Council has a right or duty to inspect; or
 - ii. issue orders, instructions or directions.

26. Standing Orders Generally

- a All or part of a standing order, except one that incorporates mandatory statutory or legal requirements, may be suspended by resolution in relation to the consideration of an item on the agenda for a meeting.
- b A motion to add to or vary or revoke one or more of the Council's standing orders, except one that incorporates mandatory statutory or legal requirements, shall be proposed by a special motion, the written notice by at least seven councillors to be given to the Proper Officer in accordance with standing order 9.
- c The Proper Officer may make recommendations to add or vary or revoke one or more of the Council's standing orders, except one that incorporates mandatory statutory or legal requirements where legal or governance advice requires.
- d The Proper Officer shall provide a copy of the Council's standing orders to a councillor as soon as possible.
- e The decision of the chair of a meeting as to the application of standing orders at the meeting shall be final.



Poole Town Council's Financial Regulations 2026

**Adopted by the Shadow Town Council for Poole on 24
March 2026**

Based on National Association of Local Councils 2024 Model Financial Regulations

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1. General

- 1.1. These Financial Regulations govern the financial management of the Council and may only be amended or varied by resolution of the Council. They are one of the Council's governing documents and shall be observed in conjunction with the Council's Standing Orders.
- 1.2. Councillors are expected to follow these regulations and not to entice employees to breach them. Failure to follow these regulations brings the office of Councillor into disrepute.
- 1.3. Wilful breach of these regulations by an employee may result in disciplinary proceedings.
- 1.4. In these Financial Regulations:
 - 'Accounts and Audit Regulations' means the regulations issued under Sections 32, 43(2) and 46 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, or any superseding legislation, and then in force, unless otherwise specified.
 - "Approve" refers to an online action, allowing an electronic transaction to take place.
 - "Authorise" refers to a decision by the Council, or a committee or an officer, to allow something to happen.
 - 'Proper practices' means those set out in *The Practitioners' Guide*
 - *Practitioners' Guide* refers to the guide issued by the Smaller Authorities Proper Practices Panel and published by NALC in England.
 - 'Must' and **bold text** refer to a statutory obligation the Council cannot change.
 - 'Shall' refers to a non-statutory instruction by the Council to its members and staff.
- 1.5. The Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) holds a statutory office, appointed by the Council. The Clerk has been appointed as RFO and these regulations apply accordingly. The RFO:
 - acts under the policy direction of the Council;
 - administers the Council's financial affairs in accordance with all Acts, Regulations and proper practices;
 - determines on behalf of the Council its accounting records and control systems;
 - ensures the accounting control systems are observed;
 - ensures the accounting records are kept up to date;

- seeks economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of Council resources; and
- produces financial management information as required by the Council.

1.6. The Council must not delegate any decision regarding:

- **setting the final budget or the precept (Council tax requirement);**
- **the outcome of a review of the effectiveness of its internal controls**
- **approving accounting statements;**
- **approving an annual governance statement;**
- **borrowing;**
- **declaring eligibility for the General Power of Competence; and**
- **addressing recommendations from the internal or external auditors**

1.7. In addition, the Council shall:

- determine and regularly review the bank mandate for all Council bank accounts;
- authorise any grant or single commitment in excess of £10,000.

2. Risk management and internal control

- 2.1. The Council must ensure that it has a sound system of internal control, which delivers effective financial, operational and risk management.**
- 2.2. The Clerk shall prepare, for approval by the Council, a risk management policy covering all activities of the Council. This policy and consequential risk management arrangements shall be reviewed by the Council at least annually.
- 2.3. When considering any new activity, the Clerk shall prepare a draft risk assessment including risk management proposals for consideration by the Council.
- 2.4. At least once a year, the Council must review the effectiveness of its system of internal control, before approving the Annual Governance Statement.**
- 2.5. The accounting control systems determined by the RFO must include measures to:**

- **ensure that risk is appropriately managed;**
 - **ensure the prompt, accurate recording of financial transactions;**
 - **prevent and detect inaccuracy or fraud; and**
 - **allow the reconstitution of any lost records;**
 - **identify the duties of officers dealing with transactions and**
 - **ensure division of responsibilities.**
- 2.6. At least once in each quarter, and at each financial year end, a member other than the Chair or a cheque signatory shall be appointed to verify bank reconciliations (for all accounts) produced by the RFO. The member shall sign and date the reconciliations and the original bank statements (or similar document) as evidence of this. This activity, including any exceptions, shall be reported to and noted by the Council and the Finance and Governance Committee.
- 2.7. Regular back-up copies shall be made of the records on any Council computer and stored either online or in a separate location from the computer. The Council shall put measures in place to ensure that the ability to access any Council computer is not lost if an employee leaves or is incapacitated for any reason.

3. Accounts and audit

- 3.1. All accounting procedures and financial records of the Council shall be determined by the RFO in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations.
- 3.2. **The accounting records determined by the RFO must be sufficient to explain the Council's transactions and to disclose its financial position with reasonably accuracy at any time. In particular, they must contain:**
- **day-to-day entries of all sums of money received and expended by the Council and the matters to which they relate;**
 - **a record of the assets and liabilities of the Council;**
- 3.3. The accounting records shall be designed to facilitate the efficient preparation of the accounting statements in the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR).
- 3.4. The RFO shall complete and certify the annual Accounting Statements of the Council contained in the Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with proper practices, as soon as practicable after the end of the

financial year. Having certified the Accounting Statements, the RFO shall submit them (with any related documents) to the Council, within the timescales required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations.

- 3.5. **The Council must ensure that there is an adequate and effective system of internal audit of its accounting records and internal control system in accordance with proper practices.**
- 3.6. **Any officer or member of the Council must make available such documents and records as the internal or external auditor consider necessary for the purpose of the audit** and shall, as directed by the Council, supply the RFO, internal auditor, or external auditor with such information and explanation as the Council considers necessary.
- 3.7. The internal auditor shall be appointed by the Council and shall carry out their work to evaluate the effectiveness of the Council's risk management, control and governance processes in accordance with proper practices specified in the Practitioners' Guide.
- 3.8. The Council shall ensure that the internal auditor:
- is competent and independent of the financial operations of the Council;
 - reports to Council in writing, or in person, on a regular basis with a minimum of one written report during each financial year;
 - can demonstrate competence, objectivity and independence, free from any actual or perceived conflicts of interest, including those arising from family relationships; and
 - has no involvement in the management or control of the Council
- 3.9. Internal or external auditors may not under any circumstances:
- perform any operational duties for the Council;
 - initiate or approve accounting transactions;
 - provide financial, legal or other advice including in relation to any future transactions; or
 - direct the activities of any Council employee, except to the extent that such employees have been appropriately assigned to assist the internal auditor.
- 3.10. For the avoidance of doubt, in relation to internal audit the terms 'independent' and 'independence' shall have the same meaning as described in The Practitioners Guide.

- 3.11. The RFO shall make arrangements for the exercise of electors' rights in relation to the accounts, including the opportunity to inspect the accounts, books, and vouchers and display or publish any notices and documents required by the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, or any superseding legislation, and the Accounts and Audit Regulations.
- 3.12. The RFO shall, without undue delay, bring to the attention of all Councillors any correspondence or report from internal or external auditors.

4. Budget and precept

- 4.1. **Before setting a precept, the Council must calculate its Council tax requirement for each financial year by preparing and approving a budget, in accordance with The Local Government Finance Act 1992 or succeeding legislation.**
- 4.2. Budgets for salaries and wages, including employer contributions shall be reviewed by the Finance and Governance Committee at least annually within the period covering October, November and December for the following financial year and the final version shall be evidenced by a hard copy schedule signed by the Clerk and the Chair of the Council or Finance and Governance Committee. The RFO will inform committees of any salary implications before they consider their draft their budgets.
- 4.3. No later than October each year, the RFO shall prepare a draft budget with detailed estimates of all receipts and payments/income and expenditure for the following financial year, taking account of the lifespan of assets and cost implications of repair or replacement.
- 4.4. Unspent budgets for completed projects shall not be carried forward to a subsequent year. Unspent funds for partially completed projects may only be carried forward (by placing them in an earmarked reserve) with the formal approval of the full Council.
- 4.5. Each committee (if any) shall review its draft budget and submit any proposed amendments to the Finance and Governance Committee not later than the end of November each year.
- 4.6. The draft budget with any committee proposals, including any recommendations for the use or accumulation of reserves, shall be considered by the Finance and Governance Committee and a recommendation made to Full Council.
- 4.7. Having considered the proposed budget, the Council shall determine its Council tax requirement by setting a budget. The Council shall set a precept

for this amount no later than the end of January for the ensuing financial year.

- 4.8. **Any member with Council tax unpaid for more than two months is prohibited from voting on the budget or precept by Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and must and must disclose at the start of the meeting that Section 106 applies to them.**
- 4.9. The RFO shall **issue the precept to the billing authority no later than the end of February** and supply each member with a copy of the agreed annual budget.
- 4.10. The agreed budget provides a basis for monitoring progress during the year by comparing actual spending and income against what was planned.
- 4.11. Any addition to, or withdrawal from, any earmarked reserve shall be agreed by the Council or Finance and Governance Committee. The RFO has delegated Authority to withdraw up to £25,000 from earmarked reserves and shall report such decision to next suitable meeting of either the Council or Finance and Governance Committee.

5. Procurement

- 5.1. **Members and officers are responsible for obtaining value for money at all times.** Any officer procuring goods, services or works should ensure, as far as practicable, that the best available terms are obtained, usually by obtaining prices from several suppliers.
- 5.2. The RFO should verify the lawful nature of any proposed purchase before it is made and in the case of new or infrequent purchases, should ensure that the legal power being used is reported to the meeting at which the order is authorised and also recorded in the minutes.
- 5.3. Every contract shall comply with these the Council's Standing Orders and these Financial Regulations, and no exceptions shall be made, except in an emergency.
- 5.4. **For a contract for the supply of goods, services or works where the estimated value will exceed the thresholds set by Parliament, the full requirements of The Public Regulations 2024 or any superseding legislation ("the Legislation"), must be followed in respect of the tendering, award and notification of that contract.**

- 5.5. Where the estimated value is below the Government threshold, the Council shall (with the exception of items listed in paragraph 6.12) obtain prices as follows:
- 5.6. For contracts estimated to exceed £60,000 including VAT, the Clerk shall advertise an open invitation for tenders in compliance with any relevant provisions of the Legislation. Tenders shall be invited in accordance with Appendix 1.
- 5.7. **For contracts estimated to be over £30,000 including VAT, the Council must comply with any requirements of the Legislation¹ regarding the advertising of contract opportunities and the publication of notices about the award of contracts.**
- 5.8. For contracts greater than £10,000 excluding VAT the Clerk shall seek at least 3 fixed-price quotes;
- 5.9. where the value is between £5,000 and £10,000 excluding VAT, the Clerk shall try to obtain 3 estimates which might include evidence of online prices, or recent prices from regular suppliers.
- 5.10. For smaller purchases under £5,000, the clerk shall seek to achieve value for money.
- 5.11. **Contracts must not be split into smaller lots to avoid compliance with these rules.**
- 5.12. The requirement to obtain competitive prices in these regulations need not apply to contracts that relate to items (i) to (iv) below:
- i. specialist services, such as legal professionals acting in disputes;
 - ii. repairs to, or parts for, existing machinery or equipment;
 - iii. works, goods or services that constitute an extension of an existing contract;
 - iv. goods or services that are only available from one supplier or are sold at a fixed price.
- 5.13. When applications are made to waive this financial regulation to enable a price to be negotiated without competition, the reason should be set out in a recommendation to the Council or Finance and Governance Committee. Avoidance of competition is not a valid reason.

¹ The Regulations require councils to use the Find a Tender website if they advertise contract opportunities and also to publicise the award of contracts over £30,000 including VAT, regardless of whether they were advertised.

5.14. The Council shall not be obliged to accept the lowest or any tender, quote or estimate.

5.15. Individual purchases within an agreed budget for that type of expenditure may be authorised by:

- the Clerk, under delegated authority, for any items below £25,000 excluding VAT.
- the Clerk, in consultation with the Chair of the Council and the Chair of the appropriate committee, for any items between £25,000 and £50,000 excluding VAT.
- a duly delegated committee of the Council for all items of expenditure within their delegated budgets for items over £50,000 and under £100,000 excluding VAT
- in respect of grants, a duly authorised committee within any limits set by Council and in accordance with any policy statement agreed by the Council.
- the Council for all items over £100,000.

Such authorisation must be supported by a minute (in the case of Council or committee decisions) or other auditable evidence trail.

5.16. No individual member, or informal group of members may issue an official order or make any contract on behalf of the Council.

5.17. No expenditure may be authorised that will exceed the budget for that type of expenditure other than by resolution of the Council, or a duly delegated committee acting within its Terms of Reference except in an emergency.

5.18. In cases of serious risk to the delivery of Council services or to public safety on Council premises, the Clerk may authorise expenditure of up to £100,000 excluding VAT on repair, replacement or other work that in their judgement is necessary, whether or not there is any budget for such expenditure. The Clerk shall report such action to the Chair of Council and the Chair of the Finance and Governance Committee as soon as possible and to the Council as soon as practicable thereafter.

5.19. No expenditure shall be authorised, no contract entered into or tender accepted in relation to any major project, unless the Council is satisfied that the necessary funds are available and that where a loan is required, Government borrowing approval has been obtained first.

5.20. An official order or letter shall be issued for all work, goods and services above £1,000 excluding VAT unless a formal contract is to be

prepared or an official order would be inappropriate. Copies of orders shall be retained, along with evidence of receipt of goods.

- 5.21. Any ordering system can be misused and access to them shall be controlled by the RFO.

6. Banking and payments

- 6.1. The Council's banking arrangements, including the bank mandate, shall be made by the RFO and authorised by the Council; banking arrangements shall not be delegated to a committee. The Council has resolved to bank with [name bank] and CCLA. The arrangements shall be reviewed annually for security and efficiency.
- 6.2. The Council must have safe and efficient arrangements for making payments, to safeguard against the possibility of fraud or error. Wherever possible, more than one person should be involved in any payment, for example by dual online authorisation or dual cheque signing. Even where a purchase has been authorised, the payment must also be authorised, and only authorised payments shall be approved or signed to allow the funds to leave the Council's bank.
- 6.3. All invoices for payment should be examined for arithmetical accuracy, analysed to the appropriate expenditure heading and verified to confirm that the work, goods or services were received, checked and represent expenditure previously authorised by the Council before being certified by the RFO. {here the certification of invoices is done as a batch, this shall include a statement by the RFO that all invoices listed have been 'examined, verified and certified' by the RFO.
- 6.4. Personal payments (including salaries, wages, expenses and any payment made in relation to the termination of employment) may be summarised to avoid disclosing any personal information.
- 6.5. All payments shall be made by online banking, in accordance with a resolution of the Council, or duly delegated committee, or a delegated decision by an officer, unless the Council resolves to use a different payment method.
- 6.6. For each financial year the RFO may draw up a schedule of regular payments due in relation to a continuing contract or obligation (such as Salaries, PAYE, National Insurance, pension contributions, rent, rates, regular maintenance contracts and similar items), which the Council or a duly delegated committee may authorise in advance for the year.

- 6.7. A copy of this schedule of regular payments shall be signed by two bank signatories on each and every occasion when payment is made - to reduce the risk of duplicate payments.
- 6.8. A list of such payments shall be reported to the next appropriate meeting of the Council or Finance and Governance Committee for information only.
- 6.9. The Clerk and RFO shall have delegated authority to authorise payments in the following circumstances:
- i. any payments of up to £25,000 excluding VAT, within an agreed budget.
 - ii. payments of up to £100,000 excluding VAT in cases of serious risk to the delivery of Council services or to public safety on Council premises.
 - iii. any payment necessary to avoid a charge under the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998, or to comply with contractual terms, where the due date for payment is before the next scheduled meeting of the Council or Finance and Governance Committee, where the Clerk and RFO certify that there is no dispute or other reason to delay payment, provided that a list of such payments shall be submitted to the next appropriate meeting of Council or Finance committee.
 - iv. Fund transfers within the Councils banking arrangements up to the sum of £100,000, provided that a list of such payments shall be submitted to the next appropriate meeting of Council or Finance and Governance Committee.
- 6.10. The RFO shall present a schedule of payments requiring authorisation, forming part of the agenda for the meeting, together with the relevant invoices, to the Council or Finance and Governance Committee. The Council or committee shall review the schedule for compliance and, having satisfied itself, shall authorise payment by resolution. The authorised schedule shall be initialled immediately below the last item by the person chairing the meeting. A detailed list of all payments shall be disclosed within or as an attachment to the minutes of that meeting.

7. Electronic payments

- 7.1. Where internet banking arrangements are made with any bank, the RFO shall be appointed as the Service Administrator. The bank mandate agreed by the Council shall identify a number of Councillors and Officers who will be authorised to approve transactions on those accounts and a minimum of two people will be involved in any online approval process. The Clerk and RFO

and other Officers may be an authorised signatory, but no signatory should be involved in approving any payment to themselves.

- 7.2. All authorised signatories shall have access to view the Council's bank accounts online.
- 7.3. No employee or Councillor shall disclose any PIN or password, relevant to the Council or its banking, to anyone not authorised in writing by the Council or a duly delegated committee.
- 7.4. The Service Administrator shall set up all items due for payment online. A list of payments for approval, together with copies of the relevant invoices, shall be sent by email to two authorised signatories.
- 7.5. In the prolonged absence of the Service Administrator an authorised signatory shall set up any payments due before the return of the Service Administrator.
- 7.6. Two Councillors or Officers who are authorised signatories shall check the payment details against the invoices before approving each payment using the online banking system.
- 7.7. Evidence shall be retained showing which members approved the payment online and a printout of the transaction confirming that the payment has been made shall be appended to the invoice for audit purposes.
- 7.8. A full list of all payments made in a month shall be provided to the next Council meeting and appended to the minutes.
- 7.9. With the approval of the Council or Finance and Governance Committee in each case, regular payments (such as gas, electricity, telephone, broadband, water, National Non-Domestic Rates, refuse collection, pension contributions and HMRC payments) may be made by variable direct debit, provided that the instructions are signed/approved online by two authorised members. The approval of the use of each variable direct debit shall be reviewed by the Council or Finance and Governance Committee at least every two years.
- 7.10. Payment may be made by BACS or CHAPS by resolution of the Council provided that each payment is approved online by two authorised bank signatories, evidence is retained and any payments are reported to the Council or Finance and Governance Committee at the next meeting. The approval of the use of BACS or CHAPS shall be renewed by resolution of the Council at least every two years.
- 7.11. If thought appropriate by the Council, regular payments of fixed sums may be made by banker's standing order, provided that the instructions are signed or approved online by two signatories, evidence of this is retained

and any payments are reported to Council or Finance and Governance Committee when made. The approval of the use of a banker's standing order shall be reviewed by the Council and Finance and Governance Committee at least every two years.

- 7.12. Account details for suppliers may only be changed upon written notification by the supplier verified by two of the Clerk and a member. This is a potential area for fraud and the individuals involved should ensure that any change is genuine. Data held should be checked with suppliers every two years.
- 7.13. Members and officers shall ensure that any computer used for the Council's financial business has adequate security, with anti-virus, anti-spyware and firewall software installed and regularly updated.
- 7.14. Remembered password facilities other than secure password stores requiring separate identity verification should not be used on any computer used for Council banking.

8. Cheque payments

- 8.1. Cheques will be only be used in last resort.
- 8.2. Cheques or orders for payment in accordance with a resolution or delegated decision shall be signed by two signatories.
- 8.3. A signatory having a family or business relationship with the beneficiary of a payment shall not, under normal circumstances, be a signatory to that payment.
- 8.4. To indicate agreement of the details on the cheque with the counterfoil and the invoice or similar documentation, the signatories shall also initial the cheque counterfoil and invoice.
- 8.5. Cheques or orders for payment shall not normally be presented for signature other than at, or immediately before or after a Council or Finance and Governance Committee meeting. Any signatures obtained away from Council meetings shall be reported to the Council or Finance and Governance Committee at the next convenient meeting.

9. Payment cards

- 9.1. Any Debit Card issued for use will be specifically restricted to the Clerk and the RFO and will also be restricted to a single transaction maximum value of £2,000 unless authorised by Council or Finance and Governance Committee within the resolution before any order is placed.

- 9.2. A pre-paid debit card may be issued to employees with varying limits. These limits will be set by the Council or Finance and Governance Committee. Transactions and purchases made will be reported to the Council Finance and Governance Committee and authority for topping-up shall be at the discretion of the Council or Finance and Governance Committee.
- 9.3. Any corporate credit card or trade card account opened by the Council will be specifically restricted to use by the Clerk and RFO and any balance shall be paid in full each month.
- 9.4. Personal credit or debit cards of members or staff shall not be used except for expenses of up to £250 including VAT, incurred in accordance with Council expenses policy.

10. Petty Cash

- 10.1. The Council will not maintain any form of cash float. All cash received must be banked intact. Any payments made in cash by the Clerk (for example for postage or minor stationery items) shall be refunded on a regular basis, at least quarterly.

11. Payment of salaries and allowances

- 11.1. **As an employer, the Council must make arrangements to comply with the statutory requirements of PAYE legislation.**
- 11.2. **Councillors allowances (where paid) are also liable to deduction of tax under PAYE rules and must be taxed correctly before payment.**
- 11.3. Salary rates shall be agreed by the Council, or a duly delegated committee. No changes shall be made to any employee's gross pay, emoluments, or terms and conditions of employment without the prior consent of the Council or relevant committee.
- 11.4. Payment of salaries shall be made, after deduction of tax, national insurance, pension contributions and any similar statutory or discretionary deductions, on the dates stipulated in employment contracts.
- 11.5. Deductions from salary shall be paid to the relevant bodies within the required timescales, provided that each payment is reported, as set out in these regulations above.
- 11.6. Each payment to employees of net salary and to the appropriate creditor of the statutory and discretionary deductions shall be recorded in a payroll control account or other separate confidential record, with the total of such payments each calendar month reported in the cashbook. Payroll

reports will be reviewed by the Finance and Governance Committee to ensure that the correct payments have been made.

11.7. Any termination payments shall be supported by a report to the Council, setting out a clear business case. Termination payments shall only be authorised by the full Council.

11.8. Before employing interim staff, the Council must consider a full business case.

12. Loans and investments

12.1. Any application for Government approval to borrow money and subsequent arrangements for a loan must be authorised by the full Council and recorded in the minutes. All borrowing shall be in the name of the Council, after obtaining any necessary approval.

12.2. Any financial arrangement which does not require formal borrowing approval from (such as Hire Purchase, Leasing of tangible assets or loans to be repaid within the financial year) must be authorised by the Full Council, following a written report on the value for money of the proposed transaction.

12.3. The Council shall consider the requirement for an Investment Strategy and Policy in accordance with Statutory Guidance on Local Government Investments, which must be written in accordance with relevant regulations, proper practices and guidance. Any Strategy and Policy shall be reviewed by the Council at least annually.

12.4. All investment of money under the control of the Council shall be in the name of the Council.

12.5. All investment certificates and other documents relating thereto shall be retained in the custody of the RFO.

12.6. Payments in respect of short term or long-term investments, including transfers between bank accounts held in the same bank, shall be made in accordance with these regulations.

13. Income

13.1. The collection of all sums due to the Council shall be the responsibility of and under the supervision of the RFO.

13.2. The Council will review all fees and charges for work done, services provided, or goods sold at least annually as part of the budget-setting

process, following a report of the Clerk. The RFO shall be responsible for the collection of all amounts due to the Council.

- 13.3. Any sums found to be irrecoverable, and any bad debts shall be reported to the Council by the RFO and shall be written off in the year. The Council's approval shall be shown in the accounting records.
- 13.4. All sums received on behalf of the Council shall be deposited intact with the Council's bankers, with such frequency as the RFO considers necessary. The origin of each receipt shall clearly be recorded on the paying-in slip or other record.
- 13.5. Personal cheques shall not be cashed out of money held on behalf of the Council.
- 13.6. The RFO shall ensure that VAT is correctly recorded in the Council's accounting software and that any VAT Return required is submitted from the software by the due date.
- 13.7. Where significant sums of cash are regularly received by the Council, the RFO shall ensure that more than one person is present when the cash is counted in the first instance, that there is a reconciliation to some form of control record such as ticket issues, and that appropriate care is taken for the security and safety of individuals banking such cash.

14. Payments under contracts for building or other construction works

- 14.1. Where contracts provide for payment by instalments the RFO shall maintain a record of all such payments, which shall be made within the time specified in the contract based on signed certificates from the architect or other consultant engaged to supervise the works.
- 14.2. Any variation of, addition to or omission from a contract must be authorised by the Clerk to the contractor in writing, with the Council being informed where the final cost is likely to exceed the contract sum by 5% or more, or likely to exceed the budget available.

15. Stores and equipment

- 15.1. Delivery notes shall be obtained in respect of all goods received into store or otherwise delivered and goods must be checked as to order and quality at the time delivery is made.

16. Assets, properties and estates

- 16.1. The Clerk shall make arrangements for the safe custody of all title deeds and Land Registry Certificates of properties held by the Council.
- 16.2. The RFO shall ensure that an appropriate and accurate Register of Assets and Investments is kept up to date, with a record of all properties held by the Council, their location, extent, plan, reference, purchase details, nature of the interest, tenancies granted, rents payable and purpose for which held, in accordance with Accounts and Audit Regulations.
- 16.3. The continued existence of tangible assets shown in the Register shall be verified at least annually, possibly in conjunction with a health and safety inspection of assets.
- 16.4. No interest in land shall be purchased or otherwise acquired, sold, leased or otherwise disposed of without the authority of the Council, together with any other consents required by law. In each case a written report shall be provided to Council in respect of valuation and surveyed condition of the property (including matters such as planning permissions and covenants) together with a proper business case (including an adequate level of consultation with the electorate where required by law).

No tangible moveable property shall be purchased or otherwise acquired, sold, leased or otherwise disposed of, without the authority of the Council, together with any other consents required by law, except where the estimated value of any one item does not exceed £5,000. In each case a written report shall be provided to Council with a full business case.

17. Insurance

- 17.1. The RFO shall keep a record of all insurances effected by the Council and the property and risks covered, reviewing these annually before the renewal date in conjunction with the Council's review of risk management.
- 17.2. The Clerk shall give prompt notification to the RFO of all new risks, properties or vehicles which require to be insured and of any alterations affecting existing insurances.
- 17.3. The RFO shall be notified of any loss, liability, damage or event likely to lead to a claim, and shall report these to the Council or Finance and Governance Committee at the next available meeting. The RFO shall negotiate all claims on the Council's insurers.
- 17.4. All appropriate members and employees of the Council shall be included in a suitable form of security or fidelity guarantee insurance which

shall cover the maximum risk exposure as determined annually by the Council, or duly delegated committee.

18. Suspension and revision of Financial Regulations

- 18.1. The Council shall review these Financial Regulations annually and following any change of clerk or RFO. The Clerk shall monitor changes in legislation or proper practices and advise the Council of any need to amend these Financial Regulations.
- 18.2. The Council may, by resolution duly notified prior to the relevant meeting of Council, suspend any part of these Financial Regulations, provided that reasons for the suspension are recorded and that an assessment of the risks arising has been presented to all members. Suspension does not disapply any legislation or permit the Council to act unlawfully.
- 18.3. The Council may temporarily amend these Financial Regulations by a duly notified resolution, to cope with periods of absence, local government reorganisation, national restrictions or other exceptional circumstances.

Appendix 1 - Tender process

- 1) Any invitation to tender shall state the general nature of the intended contract and the Clerk shall obtain the necessary technical assistance to prepare a specification in appropriate cases.
- 2) The invitation shall in addition state that tenders must be addressed to the Clerk in the ordinary course of post, unless an electronic tendering process has been agreed by the Council.
- 3) Where a postal process is used, each tendering firm shall be supplied with a specifically marked envelope in which the tender is to be sealed and remain sealed until the prescribed date for opening tenders for that contract. All sealed tenders shall be opened at the same time on the prescribed date by the Clerk in the presence of at least one member of Council.
- 4) Where an electronic tendering process is used, the Council shall use a specific email address that will be monitored to ensure that nobody accesses any tender before the expiry of the deadline for submission.
- 5) Any invitation to tender issued under this regulation shall be subject to Standing Order 18 and shall refer to the terms of the Bribery Act 2010.
- 6) Where the Council, or duly delegated committee, does not accept any tender, quote or estimate, the work is not allocated and the Council requires further pricing, no person shall be permitted to submit a later tender, estimate or quote who was present when the original decision-making process was being undertaken.



Poole Town Council's Code of Conduct 2026

**Adopted by the Shadow Town Council for Poole on 24
March 2026**

Based on The Local Government Association's Model Councillor Code of Conduct

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1. Introduction

The Local Government Association (LGA) has developed this Model Councillor Code of Conduct, in association with key partners and after extensive consultation with the sector, as part of its work on supporting all tiers of local government to continue to aspire to high standards of leadership and performance. It is a template for councils to adopt in whole and/or with local amendments.

All councils are required to have a local Councillor Code of Conduct.

The LGA will undertake an annual review of this Code to ensure it continues to be fit-for-purpose, incorporating advances in technology, social media, and changes in legislation. The LGA can also offer support, training and mediation to councils and councillors on the application of the Code and the National Association of Local Councils (NALC), and the county associations of local councils can offer advice and support to city, town, and parish councils.

2. Definitions

For the purposes of this Code of Conduct, a “councillor” means a member or co-opted member of a local authority. A “co-opted member” is defined in the Localism Act 2011 Section 27(4) as “a person who is not a member of the authority but who:

- a) is a member of any committee or sub-committee of the authority; or
- b) is a member of, and represents the authority on, any joint committee or joint sub-committee of the authority; and
- c) who is entitled to vote on any question that falls to be decided at any meeting of that committee or sub-committee”.

For the purposes of this Code of Conduct, “local authority” includes county councils, district councils, London borough councils, parish councils, city and town councils, fire and rescue authorities, police authorities, joint authorities, economic prosperity boards, combined authorities, and National Park authorities.

3. Purpose of the Code of Conduct

The purpose of this Code of Conduct is to assist you, as a councillor, in modelling the behaviour that is expected of you, to provide a personal check and balance, and to set out the type of conduct that could lead to action being taken against you. It is also to protect you, the public, fellow councillors, local authority officers and the reputation of local government. It sets out general principles of conduct expected of all councillors and your specific obligations in relation to standards of conduct. The

LGA encourages the use of support, training and mediation prior to action being taken using the Code. The fundamental aim of the Code is to create and maintain public confidence in the role of councillor and local government.

4. General principles of councillor conduct

Everyone in public office at all levels; all who serve the public or deliver public services, including ministers, civil servants, councillors and local authority officers; should uphold the [Seven Principles of Public Life](#), also known as the Nolan Principles.

Building on these principles, the following general principles have been developed specifically for the role of councillor.

In accordance with the public trust placed in me, on all occasions:

- I act with integrity and honesty;
- I act lawfully;
- I treat all persons fairly and with respect; and
- I lead by example and act in a way that secures public confidence in the role of councillor.

In undertaking my role:

- I impartially exercise my responsibilities in the interests of the local community;
- I do not improperly seek to confer an advantage, or disadvantage, on any person;
- I avoid conflicts of interest;
- I exercise reasonable care and diligence; and
- I ensure that public resources are used prudently in accordance with my local authority's requirements and in the public interest.

5. Application of the Code of Conduct

This Code of Conduct applies to you as soon as you sign your declaration of acceptance of the office of councillor or attend your first meeting as a co-opted member and continues to apply to you until you cease to be a councillor.

This Code of Conduct applies to you when you are acting in your capacity as a councillor which may include when:

- you misuse your position as a councillor; and
- your actions would give the impression to a reasonable member of the public with knowledge of all the facts that you are acting as a councillor.

The Code applies to all forms of communication and interaction, including:

- at face-to-face meetings;
- at online or telephone meetings;
- in written communication;
- in verbal communication;
- in non-verbal communication; and
- in electronic and social media communication, posts, statements; and comments.

You are also expected to uphold high standards of conduct and show leadership at all times when acting as a councillor.

The Monitoring Officer has statutory responsibility for the implementation of the Code of Conduct, and you are encouraged to seek advice from the Monitoring Officer on any matters that may relate to the Code of Conduct.

6. Standards of councillor conduct

This section sets out your obligations, which are the minimum standards of conduct required of you as a councillor. Should your conduct fall short of these standards, a complaint may be made against you, which may result in action being taken.

Guidance is included to help explain the reasons for the obligations and how they should be followed.

7. General Conduct

7.1 Respect

As a councillor:

7.1.1 I treat other councillors and members of the public with respect.

7.1.2 I treat local authority employees, employees and representatives of partner organisations and those volunteering for the local authority with respect and respect the role they play.

Respect means politeness and courtesy in behaviour, speech, and in the written word. Debate and having different views are all part of a healthy democracy. As a councillor, you can express, challenge, criticise and disagree with views, ideas, opinions, and policies in a robust but civil manner. You should not, however, subject individuals, groups of people or organisations to personal attack.

In your contact with the public, you should treat them politely and courteously. Rude and offensive behaviour lowers the public's expectations and confidence in councillors.

In return, you have a right to expect respectful behaviour from the public. If members of the public are being abusive, intimidatory or threatening you are entitled to stop any conversation or interaction in person or online and report them to the local authority, the relevant social media provider, or the police. This also applies to fellow councillors, where action could then be taken under the Councillor Code of Conduct.

7.2 Bullying, harassment, and discrimination

As a councillor:

7.2.1 I do not bully any person.

7.2.2 I do not harass any person.

7.2.3 I promote equalities and do not discriminate unlawfully against any person.

The Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS) characterises bullying as offensive, intimidating, malicious or insulting behaviour, an abuse or misuse of power through means that undermine, humiliate, denigrate, or injure the recipient. Bullying might be a regular pattern of behaviour or a one-off incident, happen face-to-face on social media, in emails or phone calls, happen in the workplace or at work social events and may not always be obvious or noticed by others.

The Protection from Harassment Act 1997 defines harassment as conduct that causes alarm or distress or puts people in fear of violence and must involve such conduct on at least two occasions. It can include repeated attempts to impose unwanted communications and contact upon a person in a manner that could be expected to cause distress or fear in any reasonable person.

Unlawful discrimination is where someone is treated unfairly because of a protected characteristic. Protected characteristics are specific aspects of a person's identity defined by the Equality Act 2010. They are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.

The Equality Act 2010 places specific duties on local authorities. Councillors have a central role to play in ensuring that equality issues are integral to the local

authority's performance and strategic aims, and that there are a strong vision and public commitment to equality across public services.

7.3 Impartiality of officers of the council as a councillor:

7.3.1 I do not compromise, or attempt to compromise, the impartiality of anyone who works for, or on behalf of, the local authority.

Officers work for the local authority as a whole and must be politically neutral. They should not be coerced or persuaded to act in a way that would undermine their neutrality. You can question officers in order to understand, for example, their reasons for proposing to act in a particular way, or the content of a report that they have written. However, you must not try and force them to act differently, change their advice, or alter the content of that report, if doing so would prejudice their professional integrity.

7.4 Confidentiality and access to information

As a councillor:

7.4.1 I do not disclose information:

- a) given to me in confidence by anyone;**
- b) acquired by me which I believe, or ought reasonably to be aware, is of a confidential nature, unless:**
 - i. I have received the consent of a person authorised to give it;**
 - ii. I am required by law to do so;**
 - iii. the disclosure is made to a third party for the purpose of obtaining professional legal advice provided that the third party agrees not to disclose the information to any other person; or**
 - iv. the disclosure is:**
 - 1) reasonable and in the public interest;**
 - 2) made in good faith and in compliance with the reasonable requirements of the local authority; and**
 - 3) I have consulted the Monitoring Officer prior to its release.**

7.4.2 I do not improperly use knowledge gained solely as a result of my role as a councillor for the advancement of myself, my friends, my family members, my employer or my business interests.

7.4.3 I do not prevent anyone from getting information that they are entitled to by law.

Local authorities must work openly and transparently, and their proceedings and printed materials are open to the public, except in certain legally defined

circumstances. You should work on this basis, but there will be times when it is required by law that discussions, documents, and other information relating to or held by the local authority must be treated in a confidential manner. Examples include personal data relating to individuals or information relating to ongoing negotiations.

7.5 Disrepute

As a councillor:

7.5.1 I do not bring my role or local authority into disrepute.

As a Councillor, you are trusted to make decisions on behalf of your community, and your actions and behaviour are subject to greater scrutiny than that of ordinary members of the public. You should be aware that your actions might have an adverse impact on you, other councillors and/or your local authority and may lower the public's confidence in you or your local authority's ability to discharge your/its functions. For example, behaviour that is considered dishonest and/or deceitful can bring your local authority into disrepute.

You are able to hold the local authority and fellow councillors to account and are able to constructively challenge and express concern about decisions and processes undertaken by the council whilst continuing to adhere to other aspects of this Code of Conduct.

7.6 Use of position

As a councillor:

7.6.1 I do not use, or attempt to use, my position improperly to the advantage or disadvantage of myself or anyone else.

Your position as a member of the local authority provides you with certain opportunities, responsibilities, and privileges, and you make choices all the time that will impact others. However, you should not take advantage of these opportunities to further your own or others' private interests or to disadvantage anyone unfairly.

7.7 Use of local authority resources and facilities

As a councillor:

7.7.1 I do not misuse council resources.

7.7.2 I will, when using the resources of the local authority or authorising their use by others:

a) act in accordance with the local authority's requirements; and

- b) ensure that such resources are not used for political purposes unless that use could reasonably be regarded as likely to facilitate, or be conducive to, the discharge of the functions of the local authority or of the office to which I have been elected or appointed.**

You may be provided with resources and facilities by the local authority to assist you in carrying out your duties as a councillor.

Examples include:

- office support;
- stationery;
- equipment such as phones, and computers;
- transport; and
- access and use of local authority buildings and rooms.

These are given to you to help you carry out your role as a councillor more effectively and are not to be used for business or personal gain. They should be used in accordance with the purpose for which they have been provided and the local authority's own policies regarding their use.

7.8 Complying with the Code of Conduct as a Councillor:

7.8.1 I will undertake Code of Conduct training provided by my local County Association (DAPTC) or by the Monitoring Officer.

7.8.2 I cooperate with any Code of Conduct investigation and/or determination.

7.8.3 I do not intimidate or attempt to intimidate any person who is likely to be involved with the administration of any investigation or proceedings including the complainant and any witnesses.

7.8.4 I comply with any sanction imposed on me following a finding that I have breached the Code of Conduct.

It is extremely important for you as a councillor to demonstrate high standards, for you to have your actions open to scrutiny and for you not to undermine public trust in the local authority or its governance. If you do not understand or are concerned about the local authority's processes in handling a complaint you should raise this with your Monitoring Officer.

In protecting your reputation and the reputation of the local authority it is important to understand and follow the next two sections:

7.9 Interests

As a councillor:

7.9.1 I register and disclose my interests.

Section 29 of the Localism Act 2011 requires the Monitoring Officer to establish and maintain a register of interests of members of the authority.

You need to register your interests so that the public, local authority employees and fellow councillors know which of your interests might give rise to a conflict of interest. The register is a public document that can be consulted when (or before) an issue arises. The register also protects you by allowing you to demonstrate openness and a willingness to be held accountable. You are personally responsible for deciding whether or not you should disclose an interest in a meeting, but it can be helpful for you to know early on if others think that a potential conflict might arise. It is also important that the public know about any interest that might have to be disclosed by you or other councillors when making or taking part in decisions, so that decision making is seen by the public as open and honest. This helps to ensure that public confidence in the integrity of local governance is maintained.

You should note that failure to register or disclose a disclosable pecuniary interest as set out in **Table 1**, is a criminal offence under the Localism Act 2011.

Appendix B sets out the detailed provisions on registering and disclosing interests. If in doubt, you should always seek advice from your Monitoring Officer.

7.10 Gifts and hospitality

As a councillor:

7.10.1 I do not accept gifts or hospitality, irrespective of estimated value, which could give rise to real or substantive personal gain or a reasonable suspicion of influence on my part to show favour from persons seeking to acquire, develop or do business with the local authority or from persons who may apply to the local authority for any permission, licence, or other significant advantage.

7.10.2 I register with the Monitoring Officer any gift or hospitality with an estimated value of at least £50 within 28 days of its receipt.

In order to protect your position and the reputation of the local authority, you should exercise caution in accepting any gifts or hospitality which are (or which you reasonably believe to be) offered to you because you are a councillor. The presumption should always be not to accept significant gifts or hospitality. However, there may be times when such a refusal may be difficult if it is seen as rudeness in which case, you could accept it but must ensure it is publicly registered. However, you do not need to register gifts and hospitality which are not related to your role as a councillor, such as Christmas gifts from your friends and family. It is also important

to note that it is appropriate to accept normal expenses and hospitality associated with your duties as a councillor. If you are unsure, do contact your Monitoring Officer for guidance.

8. Appendices

8.1 Appendix A – The Seven Principles of Public Life

The principles are:

Selflessness

Holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest.

Integrity

Holders of public office 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 disclose and resolve any interests and relationships.

Objectivity

Holders of public office must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias.

Accountability

Holders of public office are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this.

Openness

Holders of public office 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

Holders of public office should be truthful.

Leadership

Holders of public office 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.

8.2 Appendix B Registering interests

Within 28 days of becoming a member or your re-election or re-appointment to office or within 28 days of your interests changing you must register with the Monitoring Officer the interests which fall within the categories set out in **Table 1 (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests)** which are as described in "The Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012". You should also register details of your other personal interests which fall within the categories set out in **Table 2 (Other Registerable Interests)**.

"Disclosable Pecuniary Interest" means an interest of yourself, or of your partner if you are aware of your partner's interest, within the descriptions set out in Table 1 below.

"Partner" means a spouse or civil partner, or a person with whom you are living as husband or wife, or a person with whom you are living as if you are civil partners.

- 1) You must ensure that your register of interests is kept up-to-date and within 28 days of becoming aware of any new interest, or of any change to a registered interest, notify the Monitoring Officer.
- 2) A 'sensitive interest' is as an interest which, if disclosed, could lead to the councillor, or a person connected with the councillor, being subject to violence or intimidation.
- 3) Where you have a 'sensitive interest' you must notify the Monitoring Officer with the reasons why you believe it is a sensitive interest. If the Monitoring Officer agrees they will withhold the interest from the public register.

Non-participation in case of disclosable pecuniary interest

- 4) Where a matter arises at a meeting which directly relates to one of your Disclosable Pecuniary Interests as set out in **Table 1**, you must disclose the interest, not participate in any discussion, or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation. If it is a 'sensitive interest', you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest, just that you have an interest. Dispensation may be granted in limited circumstances, to enable you to participate and vote on a matter in which you have a disclosable pecuniary interest.

Disclosure of Other Registerable Interests

- 5) Where a matter arises at a meeting which ***directly relates*** to the financial interest or wellbeing of one of your Other Registerable Interests (as set out in **Table 2**), you must disclose the interest. You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting but otherwise must not take part in any

discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation. If it is a 'sensitive interest', you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest.

Disclosure of Non-Registerable Interests

6) Where a matter arises at a meeting which ***directly relates*** to your financial interest or well-being (and is not a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest set out in **Table 1**) or a financial interest or well-being of a relative or close associate, you must disclose the interest. You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting. Otherwise, you must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation. If it is a 'sensitive interest', you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest.

7) Where a matter arises at a meeting which ***affects***—
a) your own financial interest or well-being;
b) a financial interest or well-being of a relative or close associate; or
c) a financial interest or wellbeing of a body included under Other Registrable Interests as set out in **Table 2**.

You must disclose the interest. In order to determine whether you can remain in the meeting after disclosing your interest the following test should be applied.

8) Where a matter (referred to in paragraph 8 above) ***affects*** the financial interest or well-being:
a) to a greater extent than it affects the financial interests of the majority of inhabitants of the parish affected by the decision and;
b) a reasonable member of the public knowing all the facts would believe that it would affect your view of the wider public interest.

You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting. Otherwise, you must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation.

If it is a 'sensitive interest', you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest.

In the event that your non-registerable interest relates to -

- (1) an unpaid directorship on a company owned by your authority or
- (2) another local authority of which you are a member, is subject to your declaring that interest, you are able to take part in any discussion and vote on the matter.

9. Table 1: Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

This table sets out the explanation of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests as set out in the [Relevant Authorities \(Disclosable Pecuniary Interests\) Regulations 2012](#).

Subject	Description
Employment, office, trade, profession, or vocation	Any employment, office, trade, profession, or vocation carried on for profit or gain.
Sponsorship	Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the council) made to the councillor during the previous 12-month period for expenses incurred by him/her in carrying out his/her duties as a councillor, or towards his/her election expenses. This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.
Contracts	Any contract made between the councillor or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/civil partners (or a firm in which such person is a partner, or an incorporated body of which such person is a director* or a body that such person has a beneficial interest in the securities of*) and the council: (a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and which has not been fully discharged.
Land and Property	Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of the council. 'Land' excludes an easement, servitude, interest or right in or over land which does not give the councillor or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/civil partners (alone

	or jointly with another) a right to occupy or to receive income.
Licenses	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the council for a month or longer
Corporate tenancies	Any tenancy where (to the councillor's knowledge): (a) the landlord is the council; and (b) the tenant is a body that the councillor, or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/ civil partners is a partner of or a director* of or has a beneficial interest in the securities* of.
Securities	Any beneficial interest in securities* of a body where: (a) that body (to the councillor's knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the council; and (b) either: (i) the total nominal value of the securities* exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or (ii) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the councillor, or his/ her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/civil partners have a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

*'director' includes a member of the committee of management of an industrial and provident society.

*'securities' means shares, debentures, debenture stock, loan stock, bonds, units of a collective investment scheme within the meaning of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 and other securities of any description, other than money deposited with a building society.

10. Table 2: Other Registrable Interests

You must register as an Other Registrable Interest:

- a) Any unpaid directorships.
- b) Any body of which you are a member or are in a position of general control or management and to which you are nominated or appointed by your authority.
- c) Any body
 - i. exercising functions of a public nature;
 - ii. directed to charitable purposes or one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union) of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management.

11. Appendix C

Guidance on Bias and Predetermination –This does not form part of the Code of Conduct

- Where you have been involved in campaigning in your political role on an issue which does not impact on your personal and/or professional life, you may participate in a decision on the issue in your political role as a councillor. However, you must not place yourself under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might seek to influence you in the performance of your official duties.
- The courts have sought to distinguish between situations which involve predetermination or bias on the one hand and predisposition on the other. The former is indicative of a 'closed mind' approach and likely to leave a decision susceptible to challenge by Judicial Review. Whereas being predisposed on a matter is acceptable provided you remain open to listening to all the arguments and changing your mind in light of all the information presented at the meeting.
- Section 25 of the Localism Act 2011 provides that a councillor should not be regarded as having a closed mind simply because they previously did or said something

that, directly or indirectly, indicated what view they might take in relation to any particular matter.

- In the circumstances, when making a decision, consider the matter with an open mind and on the facts made available to the meeting at which the decision is to be taken.
- As a councillor you will always be judged against an objective test of whether the reasonable onlooker, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would consider that you were biased. If you have predetermined your position, you should withdraw from being a member of the decision-making body for that particular matter.



Poole Town Council's Scheme of Delegation 2026

**Adopted by the Shadow Town Council for Poole on 24
March 2026**

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1. Committees of the Council

- a) The Council will appoint three Standing Committees:
 - a. Finance and Governance Committee
 - b. Planning Committee
 - c. Staffing Committee
- b) Council may determine the number of any or all committees without the need to amend standing orders.
- c) Any member of the Council may attend meeting of any committee of which they are not a member. They must declare that they are not a member and are classed as a member of the public and may speak on any matter only with the permissions of the Chair and shall not vote.

2. Full Council

2.1 Matters Reserved for Full Council

- a) Setting the precept and approval of the Council's budget.
- b) Approval of the Annual Accounts.
- c) Completion of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR).
- d) The making, amending, or revoking of Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, and this Scheme of Delegation.
- e) Adoption or revision of the Council's Code of Conduct.
- f) Confirmation (by resolution) that the Council has satisfied the statutory criteria to exercise the General Power of Competence.
- g) Matters of principle or policy.
- h) Nomination or appointment of representatives of the Council to outside bodies (except approved conferences or meetings).
- i) Nomination or appointment of representatives of the Council at any inquiry on matters affecting the Council, excluding those matters specific to a committee.
- j) The making, amending, or revoking of byelaws.
- k) Authorisation as to terms and purpose for any application for Borrowing Approval.
- l) All banking arrangements.
- m) Appointing the Chair of Council (Mayor of Poole)

3. Finance and Governance Committee

For all committee meetings, a quorum of three is required. Membership to comprise – **XX** members of the Town Council, that are approved by Full Council to serve on this committee.

3.1 Frequency of Meetings and Minutes

The committee shall meet in alternative months to Full Council and as often as it deems appropriate to keep abreast of developments relating to its functions and authority.

3.2 Finance and Governance matters for consideration and determination

- a) To provide guidance and assistance to the Responsible Financial Officer and the Council on matters relating to budgeting and finance.
- b) All matters relating to finance, including the review of relevant documents and the making of recommendations to Full Council to fulfil the requirements of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR).
- c) To consider the Council's budget and other income and to prepare budget proposals for the Council to consider.
- d) To review spending in areas referred to it by the Council, and report back to Full Council.
- e) To consider and authorise virements between budget headings over £30,000.
- f) Review and monitor Corporate Governance and Risk Management.
- g) To consider if requested by the Council or the Town Clerk any unplanned expenditure.
- h) To work with relevant employees on other matters such as generating additional income, value for money and efficiency savings.
- i) To ensure effective internal audit.
- j) To receive, and where appropriate, draft responses to any internal and external Audit Reports and to report to the Council for approval.
- k) The Council has delegated day-to-day management of the budget to the Responsible Financial Officer within spending limits agreed in the budget.
- l) Any other matter which may be delegated to this committee by Full Council from time to time.

3.3 Additional Delegation of Authority

- a) The Council has delegated the ability for adoption and changes of policies and procedures to this committee except for Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.
- b) The Committee can note the list of payments and income and the approval of other expenditure up to £100,000.

4. Staffing Committee

For all committee meetings, a quorum of three is required. Membership to comprise – xx members of the Town Council, that are approved by the Full Council to serve on this committee.

4.1 Frequency of Meetings and Minutes

The committee shall meet as often as it deems appropriate (being not less than three times in each town council year) to keep abreast of developments relating to the employees of the Council.

4.2 Staffing Committee matters for consideration and determination

- a) To review and approve staff salaries and pay increments.
- b) To review and adopt procedures for dealing with discipline and grievances and ensure that the staff are informed of them.
- c) Review and consider the staffing structure, in the light of budgetary constraints, at least annually and whenever a vacancy occurs.
- d) To adopt and review the Staff-Member Protocol, the Staff Handbook and the policies contained therein.
- e) To line manage the Town Clerk.
- f) To undertake the Town Clerk's annual appraisal.
- g) To provide guidance to the Town Clerk regarding staffing.
- h) To review holiday, absences and TOIL balances.

4.3 Additional Delegation of Authority

The Council has delegated the interview and appointment of staff posts to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Staffing Committee.

4.4 Hearings and Appeals Sub-committees of the Staffing Committee

The Hearings Sub-committee will address employment matters (grievances/disciplinaries) that cannot be handled by officers due to the seniority of the staff member or a conflict of interest. The Sub-committee can impose sanctions. It will consist of three councillors, and members of the Sub-committee must undertake training.

The Appeals Sub-committee will handle appeals for grievances/disciplinaries that cannot be managed by officers due to the seniority of the staff member or a conflict of interest. The Sub-committee can uphold or dismiss the appeal. It will consist of three councillors, and members of the Sub-committee must undertake training.

5. Planning Committee

For all committee meetings a quorum of three is required – **xx** members of the Town Council, that are approved by the Full Council to serve on this committee.

The committee shall meet once a month to keep abreast of developments relating to its functions and authority.

5.1 Planning matters for consideration and determination:

- a) To make representations to the Local Planning Authority on applications for planning permission which have been notified to the Council.
- b) To make representations in respect of appeals against the refusal or conditions of planning permission.
- c) To identify and make representations to the relevant authorities in respect of enforcement action or any matters considered to be breaches of planning regulations.
- d) To deal with any other planning development related matter including conservation matters.
- e) The Town Clerk be given delegated powers (in conjunction with the committee Chair) to respond to applications where a response is required before the next meeting.

6. Working Groups

Where Working Groups are established, they are advisory bodies only with no delegated decision-making powers. All members are able to attend working group meetings. Decisions will be made by officers, or relevant committees, or Full Council.

7. Delegations to Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

The Town Clerk is the Council's Chief Officer and is designated and authorised to act as Proper Officer for the purposes of all relevant sections of the Local Government Act 1972 and any other statute requiring the designation of a Proper Officer.

The Town Clerk is the designated statutory Responsible Financial Officer of the Town Council and is authorised to undertake all the financial and contractual functions designated within Financial Regulations.

7.1 The Town Clerk is authorised to undertake the following functions:

- a) To sign documents on behalf of the Council.
- b) To institute and appear in any legal proceedings authorised by the Council.
- c) To manage the Council's staff in accordance with the Council's policies, procedures and budget, including:
 - i. Making appointments to posts, where not reserved for appointment by members.
 - ii. The appointment of temporary employees.
 - iii. Staff performance; discipline and dismissal.
 - iv. Payment of expenses and allowances.
 - v. The approval of increments (except their own).

- vi. Implement national pay awards and conditions of service in line with the National Joint Council Scheme of Conditions of Service (the 'Green Book') as amended by the Local Agreement.
 - vii. The establishment of new posts and any changes to posts, or terms and conditions, which would have implications for the budget, shall be subject to approval by the Staffing Committee.
- d) To authorise expenditure up to a maximum of £25,000 (excluding VAT) on any item provided that any action taken complies with any legislative provisions and the requirements of the Council's Financial Regulations.
 - e) To ensure the appropriate training of staff and updating of skills to match their responsibilities and duties.
 - f) Declarations of interests and dispensations - the decision as to whether to grant a dispensation shall be made by the Town Clerk and that decision is final.

7.2 Urgent Matters

Subject to consultation with Chair of Council and relevant committee Chair the Town Clerk is authorised to act on behalf of the Council on any matter where urgent action is needed to protect the interests of the Town Council this includes authorising expenditure above delegated limits (capped at £100,000 excluding VAT). Any such action to be reported to the next meeting of the Council or relevant committee.

Where the Council becomes inquorate or is otherwise not properly constituted, the Town Clerk is authorised to discharge all functions of the Council and its committees, other than those which legislation expressly reserves to Members. This delegation shall be exercised solely to maintain the lawful, effective and continuous running of the Council until such time as the Council is properly constituted.

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