

## Full County Council debates

If your petition relates to a county-wide matter and contains at least 12,000 signatures it will be debated by the County Council (unless it is a petition asking for a senior council officer to give evidence at a public meeting (see below)). If your petition covers a County Council matter that relates to a specific District Council area it will require at least 1,000 signatures for it to be debated by the County Council. If this matter relates to more than one District Council area then at least a 1,000 signatures per District Council area will be required for the matter to be debated by the County Council.

The County Council will endeavour to consider the petition at its next meeting, although on some occasions this may not be possible and consideration will then take place at the following meeting.

The lead petitioner, or their named representative will be invited to attend the meeting and to submit a written statement of no more than 500 words, which should be sent to the Democratic Services Unit (preferably by e-mail) to arrive at least 2 working days before the meeting;

At the meeting of the County Council the petition organiser, or their named representative, will be given five minutes to present the petition at the meeting and the petition will then be discussed by Elected Members for a maximum of 45 minutes. If the lead petitioner, or their named representative, does not attend the County Council meeting then the petition will be considered in their absence.

The County Council will decide how to respond to the petition at this meeting. They may decide to take the action the petition requests, not to take the action requested for reasons put forward in the debate, or to commission further investigation into the matter, for example by the relevant Cabinet Member or committee.

Where the issue is one on which the County Council's Executive is required to make the final decision, the County Council will decide whether to make recommendations to inform that decision.

The petition organiser will receive written confirmation of this decision. This confirmation will also be published on our website.

*(NB – the County Council will not debate a petition on the same subject within 6 months of a County Council petition debate).*