

How will the County Council respond to petitions?

Our response to a petition will depend on what a petition asks for and how many people have signed it, but may include one or more of the following:

- taking the action requested in the petition
- considering the petition at a Council meeting
- holding an inquiry into the matter
- undertaking research into the matter
- holding a public meeting
- holding a consultation
- holding a meeting with petitioners
- referring the petition for consideration by one of the Council 's overview and scrutiny committees** or in the case of cross cutting issues the Head of Democratic Services and Local Leadership in consultation with the Chairman and Spokesmen of the Scrutiny Board will determine which overview and scrutiny committee will consider the petition
- calling a referendum
- writing to the petition organiser setting out our views about the request in the petition

The County Council will tell you what it intends to do with the petition within 20 days of receipt of the paper petition or the close of an e-petition.

**Overview and scrutiny committees are committees of Elected Members who are responsible for scrutinising the work of the County Council – in other words, the overview and scrutiny committee has the power to hold the County Council's decision makers to account.

If your petition is about something over which the County Council has no direct control (for example the local railway or hospital) we will consider making representations on behalf of the community to the relevant body. The County Council works with a large number of local partners [**link to list of LAA partners**] and where possible will work with these partners to respond to your petition. If we are not able to do this for any reason (for example if what the petition calls for conflicts with County Council policy), then we will set out the reasons for this to you. Click on the link to find more information on the services for which the [County Council](#)

If your petition is about something that a different Council is responsible for, or for which we have joint responsibility, we will give consideration to what the best method is for responding to it. This might consist of simply forwarding the petition to the other Council for them to respond to or comment on, but could involve other steps. In any event we will always notify you of the action we have taken.