

Calling an Officer to give evidence at an Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Your petition may ask for a senior council officer to give evidence at a public meeting about something for which the officer is responsible as part of their job. For example, your petition may ask a senior council officer to explain progress on an issue, or to explain the advice given to elected members to enable them to make a particular decision.

If your petition contains at least 6,000 signatures for a countywide matter and 500 signatures (or multiples) for a County Council matter relating to a District area(s), the relevant [senior officer](#), accompanied by the relevant Cabinet Member, will give evidence at a public meeting of one of the Council's overview and scrutiny committees.

You should be aware that the overview and scrutiny committee may decide that it would be more appropriate for another officer to give evidence instead of any officer named in the petition – for instance if the named officer has changed jobs.

The lead petitioners or their named representative:-

(a) 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;

(b) will be allowed to address the Committee for up to 5 minutes to summarise their reviews and to amplify, but not repeat, any points in their written statement;

(c) will then be allowed up to 5 minutes to ask questions of the officer (the 5 minutes does not include the time for answers to be given). These questions should be used to seek genuinely new information. Questions must not be asked to which the member of the public already knows the answer.