

APPENDIX B

Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009

Summary of legislative requirements

- The County Council must establish a scheme for handling petitions (excluding petitions relating to planning matters).
- The scheme, and any subsequent amendments to it, must be approved by the County Council and published on the County Council's website.
- Anyone who lives, works or studies in the County Council's area can sign a petition.
- Petitions must be acknowledged and the lead petitioner told how the County Council responds to the Petition.
- The ways in which the County Council can respond to a petition must include the following:
 - Taking the action requested in the petition
 - Considering the petition at a meeting of the authority
 - Holding an inquiry
 - Holding a public meeting
 - Carrying out research
 - A written response setting out the authorities views
 - Referring the petition to an overview and scrutiny committee
 - Petitions that have a certain number of signatures (number to be decided by the County Council) will trigger a debate at the County Council meeting.
 - Petitions that have a certain number of signatures (number to be decided by the County Council) will require a senior local government officer to give evidence at an Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- If requested by a lead petitioner arrangements must be made for an Overview and Scrutiny Committee to review the adequacy of the steps taken to response to the petition.
- To have an e-petition scheme by 15 December 2010.