

5. County Council and Cabinet Committee debates

- (a) The County Council or relevant Cabinet Committee 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. No more than two separate petition debates will take place at any County Council or Cabinet Committee meeting.
- (b) 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 by 5:00pm on the Monday of the week before the County Council or Cabinet Committee meeting. The relevant Directorate should also submit a brief position statement/briefing note by the same deadline;
- (c) At the meeting of the County Council or Cabinet Committee 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. The relevant Cabinet Member will be invited to speak for up to five minutes on the Petition. The total time for a petition debate will be 45 minutes. If the lead petitioner, or their named representative, does not attend the County Council or Cabinet Committee meeting then the petition will be considered in their absence.
- (a) The County Council or Cabinet Committee 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.
- (b) Where the issue is one on which the County Council's Executive is required to make the final decision, the County Council or Cabinet Committee will decide whether to make recommendations to inform that decision.
- (c) The petition organiser will receive written confirmation of the Council's or Cabinet Committee's decision, which will also be published on our website.
- (d) The County Council or Cabinet Committee will not debate a petition on the same decision/issue as one debated within the previous six months.