

Comparison of District/Borough Petition Schemes

Name of Council	No. of signatures required to be valid	No. of signatures required to be responded to by an officer	No. of signatures required to be taken to a scrutiny Committee	No. of signatures required to be taken to Full Council
Ashford	50	N/A	750	1500
Canterbury	15	16-999	16-999	1000
Dartford	15	15 or more	15 or more	N/A
Dover	20	N/A	20 or more	1600
Folkestone and Hythe	N/A	249 or less	N/A	250
Gravesham	N/A	N/A	750	1500
Maidstone	100	N/A	100	100
Sevenoaks	5% of registered electorate (4475 = 223 signatures)	N/A	500	1000
Swale	10	200 or less	201 to 1499	1500
Thanet	50	50 to 1499	N/A	1500
Tonbridge and Malling	N/A	N/A	750	1500
Tunbridge Wells	N/A	50 to 499	500 to 999	1000

Ashford Borough Council Petition Scheme

A minimum of 50 valid signatures is required for any valid petition.

A minimum of 750 valid signatures is required to request that a senior Council officer be required to appear at any overview and scrutiny committee and give evidence on an issue for which he/she is responsible.

A minimum of 1500 valid signatures is required for an issue to be debated at a Full Council meeting.

Canterbury City Council Petition Scheme

A petition must contain at least 15 valid signatures. Any petition with less than 15 valid signatures is treated as ordinary correspondence and referred to the relevant service area for a response.

If a petition has over 15 valid signatures but under 1000 the Lord Mayor, advised by the Director of Corporate Services, will direct the petition through the appropriate route, whether that be Cabinet, a committee, or an officer for attention.

If a petition has over 1000 signatures it will trigger a debate at the next convenient meeting of Full Council (excluding the annual meeting or an extraordinary meeting).

Dartford Borough Council Petitions Scheme

Ordinary petitions may trigger action or decision by an officer under delegated authority or a report to Cabinet/Committee/Sub-Committee, but the petition must be supported by no less than 15 qualifying signatures. Democratic Services will notify the lead petitioner who the petition will be referred to for action.

Dover District Council Petitions Scheme

There must be a minimum of 20 signatures on a petition. A petition with less than 20 signatures will not be accepted under the Petition Scheme and will be referred to an officer of the council to respond to issues raised.

A valid petition will be referred to a scheduled meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration.

Any petition with 1,600 or more signatures will automatically be referred to Full Council after consideration by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Folkestone and Hythe District Council Petitions Scheme

If a petition contains fewer than 250 signatures, the decision on how to respond shall to the petition shall be made by the relevant head of service, in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder.

If a petition contains more than 250 signatures, it can be submitted to a meeting of Full Council.

Gravesham Borough Council Petitions Scheme

The Council's Petitions Scheme allows for petitions reaching a minimum of 750 valid signatures to ask for a senior council officer to give evidence at a public meeting, about something for which the officer responsible as part of their job.

If a petition has received 1500 signatures or more, it will also be scheduled for a Council debate, unless it is a petition asking for a senior council officer to give evidence at a public meeting.

Maidstone Borough Council Petitions Scheme

All petitions, which have received the signatures of 100 local residents, will be eligible for submission to the Council, Cabinet or Committee or Sub-Committee.

At a Council meeting a debate will take place on the petition for up to a period of 20 minutes, or if the petition has at least 1,500 signatures, there is no time limit for debate.

Sevenoaks District Council Petitions Scheme

A petition must be signed by 5% of the registered electors for the District. There are 4475 registered electors, so there must be at least 223 signatures.

If a petition contains at least 500 signatures, the relevant senior officer will give evidence at a public meeting of the Scrutiny Committee.

If a petition contains more than 1,000 signatures it will be debated by Full Council, unless it is a petition asking for a senior council officer to give evidence at a public meeting.

Swale Borough Council

A petition must contain the names of at least 10 petitioners, including the petition organiser, to be valid.

If there are fewer than 200 signatories, the petition will receive a response from the relevant Director.

If there are between 200 and 1,499 signatories, the petition will be referred to the most relevant service committee.

If there are more than 1,500 signatories, the petition will be referred to Full Council.

Thanet District Council

Petitions which received under 50 signatures will be treated as correspondence and will be dealt with by the relevant Council department, the relevant Cabinet Member being copied into any reply.

Ordinary petitions which have been signed by 50 or more petitioners, but fewer than 1500, will be presented to a Senior Officer of the Council who, after consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder, will respond. A report on that petition noting what action has been taken will be referred to the next meeting of Cabinet or Council for their information.

Petitions signed by 1,500 or more petitioners will be debated at a meeting of Council, unless the petition relates to an issue for which the Executive has responsibility and Council decides, following presentation of the petition, to refer it to Cabinet without

debate. In such a case, the person who presents the petition at the Council meeting will be able to re-present the petition at the subsequent meeting of Cabinet at which the petition is considered.

Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council

If a petition contains at least 750 signatures, the relevant senior officer will give evidence at a public meeting of the Council's Scrutiny Committee.

If a petition has received 1,500 or more signatures it will be debated at either a meeting of Full Council or Cabinet.

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

If a petition receives fewer than 50 signatures a response will be provided by an officer and treated as standard correspondence.

If a petition receives more than 50 but less than 500 signatures a written response will be provided by a Senior Officer of the Council.

If a petition receives more than 500 but less than 1000 signatures the petition will be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee who may hear evidence in public from a Senior Officer of the Council.

If a petition receives more than 1000 signatures it will be presented to Full Council for debate.