

E Petitions

Who can sign an e-petition?

An e-Petition can be signed by a person of any age who lives, works or studies in the Cheshire East area. You do not have to be a registered user to sign all e- Petitions but you will need to provide your name and a valid email address, for verification purposes.

You can only sign an e-Petition once. The list of signatories will be checked by officers and any duplicate signatures or frivolous responses removed.

How to create a new e-Petition

An e-Petition can be created by a person of any age who lives, works or studies in the Cheshire East area. To submit an e-Petition you will need to be a registered user. Registration is a simple process that just requires you to provide us with a few details in case we need to contact you about the e-Petition. On the e-Petitions homepage, select the 'Submit a new e-Petition' option and follow the prompted steps from there. Your online form will be submitted to the Democratic Services Section who may contact you to discuss your e-Petition before it goes live.

What information should an e-Petition contain?

Your e-Petition will need to include:

- A title or the subject of the e-Petition
- A statement explicitly setting out what action you would like the Council to take (e.g. to take action or stop doing something action”).
- Any information which you feel is relevant to the e-Petition and reasons why you consider the action requested to be necessary. You may include links to other relevant websites.
- A date for your e-Petition to go live on the website. It may take Democratic Services five working days to check your e-Petition request and discuss any issues with you so please ensure that you submit the request a few days before you want the e-Petition to go live.
- A date for when your e-Petition will stop collecting signatures. We will host your e-Petition for up to 12 months but would expect most to be significantly shorter in length than this.

What issues can my e-Petition relate to?

Your e-Petition should be relevant to some issue on which the Council has powers or duties or on which it has shared responsibilities. Your petition should be submitted in good faith and be decent, honest and respectful. Your e-Petition may be rejected if it does not meet these criteria. In addition, during politically sensitive periods, such as during the period prior to an election, politically controversial material may need to be restricted. The Council accepts no liability for the petitions on these web pages. The views expressed in the petitions do not necessarily reflect those of the Council.

Promoting an e-Petition

Whilst the Council will host e-Petitions on its website, it will not generally promote individual e-Petitions. Raising awareness of your e-petition can be done in a number of ways such as promoting it on local community websites, discussion forums or newsletters.

What happens when the e-Petition is complete?

When the e-Petition reaches its closing date, you will no longer be able to sign it online. An officer from Democratic Services will submit the final petition to the relevant Portfolio Holder and Council department for action. If appropriate Ward members will also be notified. A response indicating how your e petition will be dealt with will be sent to you within 5 working days and this will set out the timescales involved. The final response will be posted on the Council's website.

If, unusually, the petition is to be considered by a committee, you will be invited to attend the meeting. If you feel that your petition has not been dealt with properly, you have the right to request that the relevant scrutiny committee review the steps that have been taken in response to your petition.

What can e-Petitions achieve?

When you submit an e-Petition to the Council it can have positive outcomes that lead to change and inform debate. It can bring an issue to the attention of the Council and show strong public approval or disapproval for something which the Council is doing. As a consequence, the Council may decide to, for example, change or review a policy, hold a public meeting or run a public consultation to gather more views on the issue.

Privacy policy

The details you give us are needed to validate your support of a petition and, beyond your name, will not be published on the website. This is generally the same information required for a paper petition. All petitions are a matter of public record and the public have a right to visit the Councils Offices at Westfields Sandbach to view the details of those who have signed a particular petition.