

Petitions of 5000 plus signatures (petition for debate)

Petitions regarding matters affecting the area or the functions of the Council or relating to consultation exercises or pursuant to specific legislation, may be accepted at the start of an ordinary Council meeting or a service committee. Petitions will not be considered at the Annual Meeting of Council or at Extraordinary Meetings of Council unless the Extraordinary Council Meeting is convened to consider the subject matter of the petition.

The petition organiser must register the petition with the Head of Democratic Services and Governance. Petitions must relate to the functions of the Council and the area of Cheshire East.

Petitions will not be accepted that are considered by the Monitoring Officer to be:

- inappropriate, frivolous, derogatory, offensive, vexatious or otherwise improper.
- related to a Council employment or staffing matter.
- potentially defamatory.
- substantially the same as any notice of motion' submitted to a meeting of Council during the preceding 6 months.

If the petition is accepted

Petitions must be 'signed' (in person or by name if electronic) by at least 5,000 petitioners and contain the name and contact details of the 'petition organiser'.

Each signature must be supported with a clear indication that the signatory is a resident of the Borough and on the electoral register, and the requisite number of signatures was achieved within 6 months.

It will stand referred to the relevant committee for consideration. The petition organiser will be permitted to speak at the committee for 3 minutes to outline the background to the petition. If the Petitioner is unable to present the petition in person, they may appoint a spokesperson to present on their behalf.

The Committee can choose to:

- note the petition or
- write to the petition organiser outlining the Council's views

If the Committee feels no further action should be taken, this will be the end of the matter.

The Committee can also request that an officer report on the matter be submitted to the Committee at a later date.

If the Committee decides the petition is of significant importance to the whole borough, the committee may decide the petition should be debated at Full Council.

The petition must be considered at Full Council if the Committee recommends any action which may amend the budgetary or policy framework of the Council's Constitution.

If the requisite number of signatures are not achieved within 6 months, the petition will not be accepted for debate, but will be sent to the relevant service committee chair, service department and kept on file.