

Public Participation at County Council, Cabinet and Committees

Meetings of the Council, Cabinet and most Committees are open to the public who may attend and observe.

Members of the public will be treated with respect and courtesy when attending meetings of the Council. They will be listened to and everyone who has registered will be able to speak without interruption or intimidation (within the overall timescales).

It is therefore expected that members of the public listen to the proceedings and respect the views and experiences of other people contributing. For further information please see the Council's [public behaviour protocol](#).]

Members of the public are able to ask a question of the Leader or Cabinet Members at meetings of the full Council or at meetings of the Council's Cabinet. Attendance can be in person or in some circumstances via Teams.

Representations may be made to the Council, Development Management Committee, Scrutiny Committees, the Highways and Traffic Orders Committees or the Public Rights of Way Committee. The representation and the name of the person making the representation will be recorded in the minutes.

At meetings of the Council, it must either be a representation or a question, not both.

To ask a question or make a representation, the individual must live in the area served by the County Council.

The public may also, at any time, deliver or present a petition to the Council or one of its Committees (depending on the subject matter). There are various actions which the Council may take (depending upon the numbers of signatures the petition has) and for further information, please read the Council's Petition Scheme (part 4g).

Any question can be asked provided it is not frivolous, defamatory nor concerns a confidential issue which would be considered in private. The question can be about any matter which relates to the responsibilities of the Council or Cabinet.

The full guidance is available here –

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/democracy/guide/public-participation-at-committee-meetings/part-1-can-i-attend-a-meeting/> and covers the following matters.

Part 1 – Attending Meetings

Part 2 - Public Participation, Questions, Representations and Petitions

Part 3 – Submitting Questions to Council or Cabinet

Part 4 - Attendance and time allowed for petitions and / or questions.

Part 5 – Answers to questions and what happens next

Part 6 - Representations to Council

Part 7 - Representations to the Scrutiny Committee Meeting

Part 8 - Presentations to Development Management, Highways and Traffic
Orders and Public Rights of Way Committees
Part 9 - Agenda Publication for a meeting
Part 10 – Democratic Services Contact Details