

Annex 1 to Part 11: Council procedures

Oxford City Council petitions scheme

We will treat something as a petition if it is identified as being a petition and if it is formally submitted to the relevant Head of Service or the Head of Law and Governance.

A petition containing at least 1,500 signatures will be debated at full Council if the petition organiser makes a request for a debate in writing directly to Head of Law and Governance, accompanied by the text of the petition and the list of signatures, and a link to the petition if relevant. Petitions run through petition sites must be formally submitted by the organiser at the end of the signature gathering period: simply setting the petition up on such a site does not constitute formal submission.

Petitions submitted to the Council must include:

- A clear and concise statement covering the subject of the petition. It should state what action the petitioners wish the Council to take.
- The name and address and signature of any person supporting the petition. Petitions should be accompanied by contact details, including an address, for the petition organiser. This is the person we will contact to explain how we will respond to the petition. If the petition does not identify a petition organiser, we will not be able to respond to the petition.
- Petitions which are considered to be vexatious, abusive or otherwise inappropriate will not be accepted and we will not take any action on these.
- In the period immediately before an election or referendum we may need to deal with your petition differently. If this is the case we will explain the reasons and discuss the revised timescale which will apply.
- The Council will consider all the specific actions it can potentially take on the issues highlighted in a petition and may take such action as is appropriate.
- If we can do what your petition asks for, we may confirm what action we have taken.
- If the petition applies to a planning or licensing application, is a statutory petition (for example requesting a referendum on having an elected mayor), or on a matter where there is already an existing right of appeal, such as Council tax banding and non-domestic rates, other procedures apply. Further information on all these procedures can be obtained from the Head of Law and Governance or by telephoning 01865 252230.
- If we are not able to take action (for example if what the petition calls for conflicts with council policy; involves other partners or parties; is not within our control; is unaffordable, impractical or not legal; or conflicts with other priorities of the community), then we will tell you this. You can find more information on the services for which the council is responsible on our About Us page on our website.

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- If your petition is about something over which the Council has no direct control (for example the local railway or hospital) we will consider making representations on behalf of the community to the relevant body or where possible will work with our partners to respond to your petition.
- If your petition is about something that a different Council or body or agency is responsible for we will tell you and ask you to send the petition to them.