

Appendix D1

Petitions Schemes – Thresholds Analysis

Authority	Threshold to constitute a petition	Trigger point for Council	% of Parish	Comments
Bedford	Not specified	30 If about a localised issue, only affecting a small part of Borough, threshold of 30 signatures still applies and must all be from people living in area concerned.		<p>Petitions need to include name, address and signature of persons supporting petition (does not specify local connection)</p> <p>Petitions can be handed in at Council meeting but will normally be discussed at next meeting.</p>
Broadland	Not specified	1500	“Ward level petitions” relating to a single ward signed by 300 people will be received and responded to – referred to scrutiny committee.	<p>Petitions can be organised/signed by anyone who lives, works or studies in the district.</p> <p>Maximum of 15 minutes for debate at Council (plus 3 minutes for petition organiser to present).</p>
Cambridge City	Not specified	500	N/A	Petitions can be organised/signed by anyone who lives, works or studies in Cambridge.

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				Maximum of 15 minutes for discussion at Council (plus 5 minutes for lead petitioner to present)
Cambridgeshire County	50 local people	3,000	N/A	<p>Local people = anyone who lives, owns a business or works in the area or attends a school or college in area.</p> <p>Petitions with fewer than 50 signatures will still be considered but there is no right to speak. Maximum of 15 minutes for debate at Council (after 5 minutes for lead petitioner to present).</p>
Central Beds	10 for paper and 100 for e-petition	1250	N/A	Petitioners must live, work or study in area. Maximum of 30 minutes per meeting for presentation and discussion of petitions at Council – 10 minutes per petition (3 minutes for lead petitioner to introduce). Petitions with 1250 signatures or more must be discussed at Council for up to 15 minutes.
Chelmsford	Ordinary petitions – 50 or more signatures	2000	N/A	<p>Anyone who lives, works or studies in borough can organise or sign a petition including under 18s – have to provide an address in borough</p> <p>Petitions below minimum threshold still passed onto the relevant service area for response. Senior officer, after consultation with relevant director and cabinet member conclude that even though less than 50 signatures, there is clear local support for a specific course of action.</p> <p>CX and Chairman determine if enough information to have an informed debate at Council, if so debated at Council (20 mins maximum). If not, lead petitioner can present (speak up to 10 mins but debate at Council limited to determining whether</p>

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				petition should be considered at future Council meeting or Cabinet or another committee (depending on which body responsible for issue)
Cheltenham	No minimum specified	750	N/A	Limited to anyone who lives, works or studies in district, including under 18s
Cotswold	50	850	N/A	Maximum of 15 minutes for discussion at Council
East Cambs	50	200	N/A	Must be signed by local people (anyone who lives, owns a business or works in the area or attends school or college) Maximum of 15 minutes for debate at Council
Eastleigh	No threshold	N/A	N/A	Any member may present a petition (other than at AGM) which is relevant to some matter in relation to which the authority has functions, or which affects the area of the authority, or part of it, or the inhabitants of that area, or some of them. No discussion but petition is referred to Cabinet, Committee or Scrutiny committee (as relevant to terms of reference) who report to Council. Member of public can submit petition to Cabinet, committee or Scrutiny committee – 10 days' notice needed. Item then goes on agenda of relevant body.
Fenland	Not specified	500	N/A	Anyone who lives, works or studies in the area can submit or sign a petition. Maximum of 15 minutes for debate at Council (plus 5 minutes for petition organiser to present).

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Hinckley and Bosworth	Not specified	2000 or % of single parish electorate	Schedule set out for each parish specifying % of parish required to trigger debate at Council which is 2.5% of electorate of ward	Maximum of 15 minutes for discussion at Council
Huntingdonshire	Not specified.	50		<p>Any resident who lives, works or studies (including those under 18) or who owns or occupies commercial premises in the district may present a meeting to the Council.</p> <p>A maximum of 3 petitions per meeting.</p> <p>Presenter has 3 minutes and councillors may question the presenter for up to 5 minutes.</p>
Lewes	10	1500 (or 33% of population of a town or parish if on a localised issue, whichever is lower figure).	N/A	<p>Anyone who lives, works or studies can sign petition.</p> <p>Lead petitioner or councillor can hand in petition at Council meeting. Person submitting may speak for up to 5 minutes. Ward councillor and a maximum of two other councillors may address Council on petition. Petition then referred to Cabinet or relevant committee – maximum of 15 minutes allowed – if more investigation needed it is referred to future meeting.</p>

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				If petition has 1500 signatures or 33% of population of town/parish, it will be debated at Council
North Norfolk	Not specified (but see ward level petitions)	1500	10% of ward population	<p>Ward level petitions likely to be considered by scrutiny committee</p> <p>Discussion at Council limited to 15 minutes</p> <p>Petitions to contain name, address and signature of any person who lives, works or studies in district</p>
South Lakeland	30	1000	N/A	<p>Council can use discretion to permit a petition where there is "clear support for local action"</p> <p>Petitions can be handed in at Council either by petitioner or councillor.</p> <p>Maximum of 15 minutes for discussion at Council.</p> <p>Anyone who lives, works or studies in district, including under 18s can sign petition</p>
South Norfolk	10	10		<p>Signatures of people living in South Norfolk needed.</p> <p>No more than 5 people may speak on petition. At the meeting the Chairman will move that the petition is received. After being seconded the motion will be voted on. Up to 10 minutes discussion on the issue but any member may move that the petition is referred to the appropriate committee or other body. Once seconded the motion will be voted on without further discussion.</p>

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				No more than 5 petitions per meeting
Vale of White Horse	Not specified	500	N/A	Anyone who lives, works or studies in district can organise or sign petition. In period immediately before an election or referendum, may need to deal with petition differently.
West Oxfordshire	10	1500		Lead petitioner or councillor can present at Council
Winchester	10	For an issue which relates to a single ward: - 100 signatures for a 1 member ward - 200 signatures for a 2 member ward - 300 signatures for a 3 member ward For an issue which affects 2 or more wards:	N/A	The following can present a petition: - Any councillor - Any local government elector in district - Any resident of district - Any person who works or studies in district

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		- 500 signatures for 2 or more wards		
Wychavon	20	2000		Anyone who lives, works or studies in district, including under 18s, may organise or sign a petition. Maximum of 15 minutes for debate at Council
York	10	N/A	N/A	Refer to Scrutiny Committee, not Council, but committee can refer to Council as one of its options for responding to petition. Councillors can present petitions on behalf of petitioners at Council meetings (but not discussed there – referred to scrutiny)

Original Proposal for South Cambridgeshire District Council

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South Cambridgeshire	50	100 or 50% of the electorate of a particular parish for a petition relating to a single parish, whichever is the lowest.	50% but only applies to petitions for full Council	Local people can sign petitions (Local person is anyone who lives, works or studies or owns or occupies premises in the District. No provision to hand in petitions at Council meeting.

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		<p>If about a localised issue, only affecting a small part of Borough, threshold of 30 signatures still applies and must all be from people living in area concerned.</p>		<p>Maximum of 30 minutes allowed for debate at Council (including 3 minutes for petition organiser and 3 minutes for lead cabinet member)</p>