

Procedure for Public Questions at Improvement and Scrutiny Committee meetings

Members of the public who are on the Derbyshire County Council register of electors or are Derbyshire County Council taxpayers or non-domestic taxpayers, may ask questions of the Improvement and Scrutiny Committees, or witnesses who are attending the meeting of the Committee. The maximum period of time allowed for questions by the public at a Committee meeting shall be 30 minutes in total.

Order of Questions

Questions will be asked in the order they were received in accordance with the Notice of Questions requirements, except that the Chairman may group together similar questions.

Notice of Questions

A question may only be asked if notice has been given by delivering it in writing or by email to the Director of Legal Services no later than 12 noon three working days before the Committee meeting (i.e. 12 noon on a Wednesday when the Committee meets on the following Monday). The notice must give the name and address of the questioner and the name of the person to whom the question is to be put.

Questions may be emailed to democratic.services@derbyshire.gov.uk

Number of Questions

At any meeting no person may submit more than one question, and no more than one such question may be asked on behalf of one organisation about a single topic.

Scope of Questions

The Director of Legal Services may reject a question if it:

- Exceeds 200 words in length;
- is not about a matter for which the Committee has a responsibility, or does not affect Derbyshire;
- is defamatory, frivolous or offensive;
- is substantially the same as a question which has been put at a meeting of the Committee in the past six months; or

- requires the disclosure of confidential or exempt information.

Submitting Questions at the Meeting

Questions received by the deadline (see **Notice of Question** section above) will be shared with the respondent with the request for a written response to be provided by 5pm on the last working day before the meeting (i.e. 5 pm on Friday before the meeting on Monday).

It is at the Chairman's discretion whether the questions and responses are read out at the meeting.

Supplementary Question

Anyone who has put a question to the meeting may also put one supplementary question in writing to the person who has replied to his/her original question. A supplementary question must arise directly out of the original question or the reply. The Chairman may reject a supplementary question on any of the grounds detailed in the **Scope of Questions** section above.

Supplementary questions must be emailed to democratic.services@derbyshire.gov.uk