

Appendix 3

Summary of other local authority petition schemes (anonymised)

Population (approx. based on 2020/21) rounded to nearest 1000	Number of signatures to enable presentation at full Council	Threshold requirements	Other aspects of scheme to note	Review	Recommendations
584,000	1,000		WCC Scheme	n/a	
725,300	n/a	Scheme is not clear on thresholds Must be presented four working days before meeting wish to address	Must relate to something committee has responsibility for (and council as a whole) Will not be debated unless relates to an item already on agenda.	Approach re debate mirrors that taken by Warwickshire.	No changes
598,000	3,500	Petitions presented at full council only	Received by Chair without response on day but responded to in writing subsequently as soon as practicable	This reflects Warwickshire's current approach in practice.	No changes
570,000	5,000	Only accepts petitions over 250 signatures. Over 250 will be referred to Cabinet Member, OSC or Director Must be over 18 to submit petition	Will consider a debate if petition relates to county wide issue and signed by at least 5000 people. In order to be scheduled for debate a report will be prepared outlining the issues which the petition relates and containing recommendations for Councillors to consider. Max debate length of 15 mins. Below 5,000 dealt with as an ordinary petition which means	Again, this recognises the need for a report and appropriate information to be available to Members before a decision can be taken. Formal report required and thus affects timing of debate and meeting to which it can be directed to meet publication requirements at law.	No changes

			Council will reasonably determine how it will be dealt with		
345,000	15,000	<p>10,000 to require a senior officer to attend a scrutiny board to give evidence about something within their role remit (applies to Chief Exec, Executive Director equivalents, Director of Public Health, and MO)</p> <p>Between 5 signatures and 15,000 signatures petition officers decide destination of petition (i.e. council, cabinet or Portfolio Holder)</p> <p>Petitions that don't meet the thresholds may go to a relevant cabinet member of committee instead.</p>	<p>If supported by 15,000 or more people will be debated by a full council meeting when all councillors can attend and allowing for time to prepare.</p> <p>Petitions can be presented to Council by a Councillor but not debated and are referred to Cabinet, Portfolio Holder or Committee</p> <p>Scrutiny Co-ordination committee will consider any complaint that petition not dealt with in accordance with scheme</p>	<p>Thresholds are high related to population number but do not recommend raising to that level given the numbers and size of petitions generally received in Warwickshire.</p> <p>Timing of debate and need for preparation/scheduling acknowledged.</p> <p>Warwickshire does not have a Scrutiny co-ordination committee and it remains appropriate for matters to be dealt with by Monitoring Officer where difference of opinion or complaint.</p>	No changes
216,000	2,000	<p>2,000 signatures triggers a debate at Council</p> <p>Less than 2,000 may go to full council but will not be debated, may go to other committee</p>	<p>Debate scheduled for next available meeting subject to ability to prepare.</p> <p>Time limit of 15 minutes for debate and decision taken is whether to (a) take the action requested by petition (b) not to take action or (c) to refer for investigation by scrutiny board</p>	<p>Nature of council means a wider remit of areas of control/decision making and hence the scheme justifies more complex rules around petitions.</p> <p>Debate is scheduled and thus requires Agenda item which</p>	No Changes

			<p>If is an executive decision, then recommendations may be made to inform that decision.</p> <p>1,000 signatures needed to ask Senior Officer to give evidence at a meeting of Scrutiny Board</p>	<p>recognises issues caused in relation to timing.</p>	
876,000	5,000	<p>5,000 to trigger a debate</p> <p>2,500 signatures for senior officer to attend public meeting.</p>	<p>5,000 signatures triggers a debate.</p> <p>2,500 triggers a senior officer giving evidence at a committee.</p>	<p>Thresholds are higher than Warwickshire but relative to population size which is also greater.</p> <p>References the matter being referred for debate.</p> <p>“Referred” for debate is presumed to mean that the matter is scheduled to an appropriate agenda. This supports the need for appropriate information to be available to Members before a decision can be taken</p>	No changes