

Public Involvement at Brighton & Hove City Council

Questions



Brighton & Hove
City Council

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If you have any questions or feedback please contact Democratic Services:

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Who can ask a question?

Any resident of the city can ask a question at any of the council's ordinary public meetings including full council.

What meetings can I ask a question at?

There is time reserved for questions at every ordinary council meeting. You may not be able to ask a question at a special meeting of a committee as these meetings are called to discuss either a single matter or time sensitive matters and are held in addition to ordinary meetings. There are no public questions at the Budget Council meeting in February, at Licensing Panels or Standards Hearings.

What is the deadline for asking a question?

You have to have agreed your question by 12 noon four working days before the meeting. The exact deadline for each meeting is published in the agenda.

What topics can my question be about?

Your question can be on any topic which the council has the power to act on. If you want to ask about a national topic please see <http://www.parliament.uk/get-involved/>.

How long can my question be?

Your question can be 100 words and can only contain a single question.

Do I need to tell you what my question is in advance?

You will have to submit your full question in advance not just the topic. Doing this helps the chair give you a full response. You do not have to submit your supplementary question in advance but if you do it may mean you receive a more complete response at the meeting.

Can my supplementary question be on a different topic?

The supplementary question has to be relevant to your original question or the response provided by the Chair. It is not a second question.

On what grounds can the chair of the committee refuse my question?

- Your question is largely the same as a question asked in the last six months
- Your question is defamatory, frivolous or offensive
- Your question is asking for confidential information

The decision to refuse a deputation is made by the Chief Executive or Chair of the meeting (Mayor at full council). The decision is final.

Can I submit an anonymous question?

You must provide your name and either an address or email address when submitting a question. Your name will be part of the public record of the meeting along with your question.

Do I have to be present at the meeting to ask a question?

Your question has to be asked at the meeting. You could have a representative (friend, colleague etc.) ask the question if you are unable to attend. They will have the right to ask a supplementary question on your behalf as well.

I work for the council; can I ask a question?

The only additional restriction on council employees is that the questions cannot relate to your personal employment.

Does the chair of the committee have to answer my question?

If your question follows the guidelines then the chair will answer it at the meeting. They could answer in several ways; say the answer to you at the meeting, give you a written answer if the answer would be too long to read out or refer you to a publication where the answer is. If the chair is unable to answer your question or supplementary question at the meeting they must provide you with a written answer in a reasonable time after the meeting.

How many questions can I ask?

You can only ask one question at a meeting but there is no limit on how many meetings you can come to as long as you are asking different questions.