

London Borough of Bromley

Petition Scheme

Who can submit a petition?

The Council welcomes petitions and a petition can be submitted by any person of any age who lives, works or studies in the borough of Bromley. All petitions will be acknowledged within five working days.

What information should my petition contain?

Your petition will need to include:

- A title;
- A short, clear statement explicitly setting out what action you would like the Council to do (or not do).
- Any supporting information which you feel is relevant to the petition and reasons why you consider the action requested to be necessary;
- Where appropriate, a clear choice of options for signatories to choose from, i.e. will you simply be asking people to 'agree' with the petition or will you give them the option to 'agree' or 'disagree'?
- Petitions should include space for signatories to complete the required information, including a postal address in the borough.

What formats are acceptable?

The Council will accept petitions in paper format that have been physically signed. Each sheet should state clearly what the petition is about and include space for people to provide their name, address and signature.

The Council will accept e-petitions only where they are submitted using the Council's own e-petition facilities on the Council website, or where a full print-out including names and addresses is submitted.

Who can sign a petition?

A petition can be signed by a person of any age who lives, works or studies in Bromley. All petitioners should provide as appropriate their home, work or education establishment address. You can only sign a petition once; the list of signatories will be checked by officers and any duplicate signatures or obviously frivolous responses will be discounted.

What issues can my petition relate to?

Your petition should be relevant to some issue on which the Council has powers or duties or which affects the borough. It should also be submitted in good faith and be decent, honest and respectful. Your petition may be rejected if it:

- Contains intemperate, inflammatory, abusive or provocative language.
- Is defamatory, frivolous, vexatious, discriminatory or otherwise offensive; or contains false statements.
- Is too similar to another petition submitted within the past six months.
- Discloses confidential or exempt information, including information protected by a court order or government department.
- Discloses material which is otherwise commercially sensitive.
- Names individuals, or provides information where they may be easily identified, e.g. individual officers of public bodies provided that this exemption will not apply to executive councillors, committee chairmen, the head of paid service or any statutory or non-statutory chief officer.
- Makes criminal accusations.
- Contains advertising statements.
- Refers to an issue which is currently the subject of a formal Council complaint, Local Ombudsman complaint or any legal proceedings.
- Relates to planning or licensing applications as there are separate statutory processes in place for dealing with these matters.

During politically sensitive periods, such as prior to an election, politically controversial material may need to be restricted.

If your petition relates to an issue which is beyond the powers of the Council to address, it may be more appropriate to start an e-petition on the Number 10 Downing Street website. Advice on the admissibility of petitions and e-petitions can be obtained from Democratic Services (contact details below).

Privacy policy

The details you give us are needed to validate your support but will not be published on the website. The Council may contact you in relation to any petitions you have signed, unless you have requested not to be contacted when signing the petition. The Director of Corporate Services and Governance will maintain a register of all petitions submitted.

How Many signatures does my petition need?

To qualify as a valid petition under the Council scheme a paper petition requires a minimum of valid 25 signatures and an e-petition 200 signatures. Signatures must be supported by a verifiable postal address in the borough. In exceptional circumstances, the Council may consider accepting petitions with fewer signatures where there is local issue affecting a small number of residents.

What will happen to a Petition once it is submitted?

Once a petition has been submitted it will be referred to an appropriate Council officer for consideration. A Councillor (this will normally be the relevant Portfolio Holder, but in some cases it will be the appropriate committee chairman) will be identified to oversee the Council's response. This might include taking the action requested in the petition, or explaining why the action will not be taken. Other

possible responses might be to refer the matter to a Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee or to the full Council, to commission research or public consultation, to hold a public meeting or to request an investigation. A response will normally be sent to you within 10 working days.

What if I am dissatisfied with the Council's Response?

If you are dissatisfied with the Council's response you may ask that the matter is re-considered if you have sufficient signatures.

If your petition has more than 250 valid signatures (2,000 for an e-petition) you, or a person you nominate, can address the next available Policy Development and Scrutiny (PDS) committee for up to 5 minutes.

If your petition has more than 500 signatures (4,000 for an e-petition) you may instead ask that the petition is referred to full Council for consideration and you or your nominee can address the Council up to for 5 minutes.

After considering your petition the PDS Committee or Council can refer it to the Executive, a relevant Portfolio Holder or a Chief Officer with recommendations for action.

What can petitions achieve?

When you submit a petition to the Council it can have positive outcomes that lead to change and inform debate. It can bring an issue to the attention of the Council and show strong public approval or disapproval for something which the Council is doing, and local Councillors will always be informed about petitions which affect their Wards. As a consequence, the Council may decide to, for example, change or review a policy, hold a public meeting or run a public consultation to gather more views on the issue.

Contact Details

For more information and advice, to discuss a potential petition or to submit your petition, please contact Democratic Services -

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