

Protocol for Questions by Members of the Public

Ask a question at a city council meeting

The City of Wolverhampton Full Council meetings includes an allocated time of 15 minutes for members of the public to ask questions (excluding the budget meeting and Annual General Meeting).

Who may ask questions at Council?

Each member of the public (residents and persons who work or study in Wolverhampton) are allowed to ask one question per council meeting.

Who must my question be addressed to?

You must address your question to one of the members of the Executive. Each Executive Member holds different portfolios. You can read about the Executive Members and their roles [here](#).

How to submit a question:

To submit a question, it must be submitted in writing in one of the following ways:

- Completing the Online Form below
- Via email to Democratic.Services@wolverhampton.gov.uk
- Or by post in writing to: Chief Operating Officer & Monitoring Officer, City of Wolverhampton Council, Civic Centre, St Peter's Square, Wolverhampton, WV1 1RG

Deadline for submitting a question

The deadline for questions to be submitted to be asked at a Full Council meeting is, no later than noon seven clear working days before the meeting (e.g. Friday for a meeting on the Wednesday – 12 days later) – **e.g. Friday 3 June for a meeting on Wednesday 15 June**. If you can give us more notice than this, we can help you to prepare your question as well as offering general advice and information.

If your question has been approved, the question will be read out to the Council meeting by an officer from Democratic Services. (You are welcome to attend the meeting and observe from the public gallery, alternatively you can watch the live stream.)

When submitting your question you must give your name, address, and email address. The address must be the address at which you live or your business/work address and be within the City boundary.

Before submitting a question, please note the following:

- We will process your question as set out in the Council's Constitution.
- We will publish your name along with your question.
- By submitting your question, you are indicating your consent for your personal data to be used for this purpose.
- Questions will be taken in the order received, within the time available.

Protocol for Questions by Members of the Public

- They will be asked exactly as submitted.
- It is assumed that you wish the question to be answered at the next meeting of the Council unless otherwise stated.

Questions must also fit the following criteria:

- No question must exceed 1 minute (no answer will exceed 2 minutes)
- The question must refer to an issue which affects wards in Wolverhampton or falls within the council's responsibilities.
- The question must not be substantially the same as a question which has been asked at a meeting of the council in the past 6 months
- The question must not be defamatory, frivolous, vexatious or offensive. (It must not insult anyone and must be serious in nature)
- The question must not require the disclosure of confidential or exempt information
- The question must not refer to individual planning or licensing matters, or any matter of a personal nature
- The question must not relate to complaints made under statutory provisions which have not been finally dealt with.
- The question must not be a matter subject to litigation or could place the Council at risk of litigation.

The Monitoring Officer has the power to reject a question if it fails to meet the above criteria.

Order of questions

Questions will be taken in the order received, within the time available. They must be asked exactly as submitted.

How will questions not answered at the meeting be dealt with?

Any question that cannot be dealt with during public question time (either because of lack of time or because of the councillor who is required to answer the question is unable to attend the meeting) will be dealt with by a written reply.

What should I do on the day of the meeting if you plan to attend?

Please arrive at least 15 minutes before the start of the meeting so that you can be shown to the public gallery.

You are welcome to stay for the remainder of the meeting that is open to the public or you may leave after your question has been dealt with.

The agenda and papers will be published on the Council's website five clear working days before the meeting.

Protocol for Questions by Members of the Public

Will the meeting be recorded or videoed when public questions are asked?

Members of the public or journalists attending any public meetings may record the meeting, including either audio or video recordings. This will include any public questions. The Council cannot prevent the recording taking place so please consider this possibility before submitting your question.

The Council also webcasts the meeting live and a copy is available on the Councils website for up to six months.

How will my question and personal information be recorded

Your name will be included in the agenda pack with your question, which will be publicly available information.

Your name will also be included in the minutes, along with the question asked and who responded.

Your address and contact details will not be given out but will be stored by the Democratic Services Team at the Council for up to one year.

Data Protection

By submitting a question for a meeting, you are giving your consent that your name, address and postal town and any other personal details will only be used by the Democratic Services Team to process a question you have asked and shall appear in the minutes of the meeting. This is under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

You are not obliged either by statute or by contract to provide your contact details, but we will be unable to process your question without them.

If you submit a question, we will email you the updates and responses relating to that question only. For more information, please refer to our [detailed privacy notice](#).

All other information you provide will only be shared with Democratic Services staff dealing with the Committee. Following the approval of the minutes, any additional information - other than your name and postal address - will be destroyed.

The Data Controller is The City of Wolverhampton Council, and its Data Protection Officer is Anna Zollino-Biscotti who can be contacted at dpo@wolverhampton.gov.uk.

Please note that if you are unhappy with the handling of your data you have the right to complain to the [Information Commissioners Office](#).

Protocol for Questions by Members of the Public

Question Submission Form

- Full Name
- Address
- Place of work/study if you live outside of Wolverhampton
- Email Address
- Date of the meeting at which you wish your question to be asked
- Question
- Who is the question submitted to (which member of the Executive)?
- Submit

Future Meetings

Members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting to observe proceedings online via the webcast where you will be able to watch questions submitted by the public. You can find a list of upcoming full council meetings, as well as questions and responses from previous meetings, on our [City of Wolverhampton Council meetings page](#).

Contact details for Democratic Services

You can contact the Democratic Services Team if you would like to discuss submitting questions to the Council by:

Email: Democratic.Services@wolverhampton.gov.uk

Democratic Services,

City of Wolverhampton Council,

Civic Centre,

St Peter's Square,

Wolverhampton,

WV1 1RG