

## **Contract Standing Order 12 - Deputations**

- 12.1 Subject to the provisions of this Standing Order, the County Council shall receive deputations at a Meeting of the County Council on any business that is properly within its terms of reference and the deputation shall be allowed to address the Meeting.
- 12.2 Subject to the provisions of this Standing Order, Cabinet or any Executive Member, Committees or Standing Panels of the County Council shall receive deputations at any Meeting or Individual Executive Member Decision Day relating to business that is properly within the Agenda for such Meeting or Individual Executive Member Decision Day and the deputation shall be allowed to address the Meeting or Individual Executive Member Decision Day.

For the purpose of this Standing Order:

- 12.2.1 notice in writing shall be given to the Chief Executive (to the Head of Democratic and Member Services via [members.services@hants.gov.uk](mailto:members.services@hants.gov.uk)) that a deputation wishes to address a Meeting or Individual Executive Member Decision Day and the notice shall specify the subject on which the deputation wishes to speak. In the case of a County Council Meeting, the notice shall be given at least 10 clear Working Days in advance. In the case of other Meetings or Individual Executive Decision Days, the notice shall be given at least three clear Working Days in advance.
- 12.2.2 deputations shall consist of not more than four people who shall (except in the case of a deputation to the Regulatory Committee when it is exercising a function within the Functions Regulations, Regulation 2 and Schedule 1) be local government electors for the administrative area of Hampshire County Council, or otherwise and subject to the provisions set out at paragraph 12.2.3 below, have attained the age of seven years or older;
- 12.2.3 any deputation request received from a child of compulsory school age shall be accompanied by the following:
- 12.2.3.1. written consent from the parent of or person with Parental Responsibility for the child to the making of the deputation, including in respect of a request to make a deputation at a Meeting of the County Council or Cabinet, to the deputation being recorded and available for broadcast; and
- 12.2.3.2. in the case of a request to make a deputation within school term time, written consent to the making of the deputation from the Headteacher of the school the child attends, without which consent(s) the deputation shall not be heard.
- 12.2.4 without prejudice to the provisions of 12.2.3 above, deputations will not be received from children in cases where, in the opinion of the Director

of Children's Services, it is not in the best interests of the child to make the deputation.

- 12.2.5 any member of a deputation may address a Meeting or Individual Executive Decision Day;
- 12.2.6 deputations shall be taken at the beginning of the Meeting or Individual Executive Decision Day in the order received (after the Minutes) and the total time for all deputations in any Meeting or Individual Executive Decision Day shall not exceed one hour in duration;
- 12.2.7 the total time taken by a deputation in addressing a Meeting or Individual Executive Decision Day shall not exceed 10 minutes provided that where the number of deputations in any Meeting or Individual Executive Decision Day would otherwise mean that the maximum time for deputations would be exceeded, the time allowed per deputation will be reduced on a proportional basis;
- 12.2.8 any deputation which has appeared before a Meeting of the County Council, the Executive, a Individual Executive Decision Day or any Committee or Standing Panel of County Council, shall not reappear at any such Meeting or any other Meeting or Individual Executive Decision Day within a period of six months on the same or similar topic (except in the case of a deputation to the Regulatory Committee when it is exercising a regulatory function, in which case a deputation may reappear where an item is adjourned, or when there is another similar application submitted in respect of the same site);
- 12.2.9 for the avoidance of doubt a deputation to a Meeting of the Executive, a Committee or Standing Panel or an Individual Executive Decision Day must relate to an item on the Agenda for that Meeting or Individual Executive Decision Day;
- 12.2.10 no discussion shall take place with the presenters of a deputation but the Chairman of the Meeting or the Executive Member may inform the deputation how, if at all, the matter will be dealt with by noting, action or referral. At a Meeting of the County Council, the Chairman may invite the Leader or appropriate Executive Member or Committee Chairman to give this information to the deputation.
- 12.2.11 Deputations in respect of Individual service concerns will not be received where, in the opinion of the Chief Executive in consultation with the Monitoring Officer, the subject matter of the deputation relates to issues which are more properly dealt with through the County Council's Corporate Complaints Procedure, or which might cause the County Council to breach confidentiality rules.
- 12.3 Without prejudice to the generality of Paragraph 12.2 above, where a Meeting of the County Council, Cabinet, Committees or Standing Panels is held remotely in accordance with the provisions of the Local

Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 (Regulations) (the 2020 Regulations) or any amendment thereof, successor Regulations or Legislation (together Successor Provisions) enabling Meetings of the County Council to be held remotely, then deputations will also be received remotely at such Meetings in accordance with the provisions of the 2020 Regulations or Successor Provisions.

- 12.4 Deputations will also be received remotely at Decision Days of Individual Executive Members open to the public remotely, in accordance with the provisions of Part 3, Chapter 3, Paragraph 4 of the Constitution.

NB: The Purpose of Standing Order 12 is to give members of the public an opportunity to address the County Council, the Executive, its Committees or Standing Panels. Elected members (including those of other Councils), political parties, trade unions and members of staff have other opportunities to bring matters to the County Council's attention and will not be received under the provision of Standing Order 12.

Additional arrangements apply in respect of Regulatory Committee or when the County Council is otherwise exercising a function within the Functions Regulations. These arrangements are set out within the Local Protocol on Planning, Rights of Way and Commons Registration, Paragraph 9, contained at Appendix B.