



Committee and Date
Council
11 December 2025

Item

Public



Public Questions at Council, Cabinet and Committee Meetings

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Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder):	Councillor Heather Kidd, Leader	

1. Synopsis

This report sets out a proposed change to the public question time arrangements in the Council Procedure Rules. The change will allow members of the public who have registered to ask a question at a Council, Cabinet or committee meeting to also ask a supplementary question once they have received their response.

2. Executive Summary

Currently only Members may ask a supplementary question after receiving a response to a question they have submitted for a committee meeting. The proposed change will rectify this anomaly and support the Administration's desire for genuine engagement and openness, public participation, and more transparent governance.

3. Recommendations

To add an additional paragraph to section 14.1 of the Council Procedure Rules stating

"That a member of the public asking a question under Rule 14.1 may ask one supplementary question without notice of the Member to whom the first question was asked. The supplemental question must arise directly out of the original question or the reply. Any supplementary question which cannot be dealt with during the time allotted for Public Questions will be dealt with by a written answer"

Report

4. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

Risk of extending the duration of a meeting, or opening debate too widely within a limited time period is considered to be more than offset by the positive step of allowing the public to respond to an answer provided at a meeting.

5. Financial Implications

There are no financial implications resulting from this change.

6. Climate Change Appraisal

There are no climate change implications in making this change.

7. Background

There is an anomaly within the Council Procedure Rules between Member and Public Questions in that only Members have the right to ask a supplementary question, once they have received a response to their original question.

It is the Administration's view that members of the public should also have the right to ask a supplementary question, to allow more genuine engagement and openness and encourage public participation.

It is therefore proposed to amend the Council's Procedure Rules to take account of this change and update the information available to the public on asking questions at Committee Meetings (available [here](#))

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)

Shropshire Council Constitution Part 4 – [Council Procedure Rules](#)

Local Member: *All*