

Public Participation

Any York citizen or business person can register to speak at the Council's public meetings provided it is about:

- A specific agenda item being considered at the meeting concerned
- An issue which the meeting concerned is authorised to deal with as set out in the Council's Delegation Scheme (see part 3, schedule 1 of the Constitution).

What are the Rules?

- Anyone wishing to speak at a public meeting should register no later than 5pm on the working day preceding the meeting (see relevant agenda for registration deadlines and contact details). Only the councillor chairing the meeting has the authority to accept a late registration to speak at a meeting;
- There is a maximum period of 30 minutes to listen to public speakers and so each person registering to speak is allowed just 3 minutes.
- Only 1 speaker can speak in favour of and only 1 speaker against a single issue, unless the councillor chairing the meeting is prepared to make any exceptions.
- Councillors will listen to each speaker but will not usually make any comments at this stage other than occasionally to ask questions of clarification.
- If a speaker is attending the meeting to speak about a particular matter which councillors are considering on that day, the Chair of the meeting will arrange for the relevant item and associated report to be considered early in the meeting, so that the speaker can leave as soon as the debate on that matter has finished. Speakers can, of course, stay for the whole of the remaining public meeting if they wish.
- The Public Participation Scheme is intended for York citizens and business people and not specifically employees in relation to issues directly affecting their employment by the Council. There are some instances when it would be appropriate for an employee to speak but **as a resident of the area** e.g. a planning application which affects an employee as a resident because a particular development will impact on the locality in which they live etc. For further advice on this contact the Democracy Officer responsible for the meeting you are interested in.

Note: Further information and advice about registering to speak at public meetings of the Council is given in a special leaflet called 'Have Your Say' available on the website or directly from Democratic Services. Contact telephone 01904-551088.