

16. Public Attendance and participation at Council meetings

a. Members of the general public are welcome to attend Council meetings at any time to observe proceedings. This is a legal right. **Such members of the general public may not however, speak or otherwise take part in, or contribute to, the debates which take place at Council meetings. It is not permitted to interrupt the ongoing business of the meeting.**

b. A member of the general public may request the opportunity to speak for a short period at meeting, in writing to the Clerk at least 24 hours prior to the meeting. **The subject matter must be directly related to a planned agenda item.**

c. The right to do this is at the discretion of the Chairman, who may or may not choose to agree the request. The time allotted for such a speech is also at the discretion of the Chairman who will advise any speaker of the time allotted to them, usually 5 minutes.”