

Oxfordshire Growth Board: Public Participation

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Members of the public may ask questions of the Chairman of the Growth Board, or address the Growth Board on any substantive item at a meeting subject to the restrictions set out below. There shall be a specific agenda item near the start of the each meeting of the Growth Board to permit such public participation to take place.
- 1.2 Questions shall be directly relevant to some matter in which the Growth Board has powers and duties and which directly affects the area of Oxfordshire.

2. Questions

- 2.1 Any member of the public wishing to ask a question may do so at a meeting of the Growth Board, and must give notice of the question in writing or by email to the Chief Executive or the Secretariat of the host authority, at least three clear days before the meeting (i.e. not counting the day of the meeting or the day of receipt).
- 2.2 The Chairman will answer submitted questions.
- 2.3 The questioner may read his/her question, but the Chairman will do so if the questioner wishes for that, or is not present at the meeting. No supplementary question may be asked.
- 2.4 The answer given by the Chairman may take the form of an oral statement, or may be given subsequently in writing to the questioner. A written copy of the response will be circulated to all Growth Board Members. It is intended the written response will be given within ten working days of the meeting.
- 2.5 No discussion shall take place on the question or the answer.
- 2.6 The Chief Executive of the host authority may, in consultation with the Chairman of the Growth Board, refuse to accept a submitted question if s/he considers it to be offensive, defamatory, frivolous or vexatious, or if in his or her opinion it does not meet the requirements of paragraph 1.2 above.

3. Addresses

- 3.1 Any member of the public may address the Growth Board on any substantive agenda item. Such address shall be for up to three minutes.
- 3.2 The speaker shall give notice of their wish to address the Growth Board by email or in writing no later than 12 noon on the day before the meeting to the Chief Executive or the Secretariat of the host authority.
- 3.3 Once a member of the public has spoken and, with the leave of the Chairman, any questions of clarification asked of the speaker by Growth Board members duly answered, the Growth Board shall hear any further addresses, and at the conclusion of public participation shall proceed onto the next item of business. There will be no debate on any representations made except to the extent that they are considered when the relevant agenda item is considered later in the meeting.

4. Restrictions

- 4.1 Submitted questions shall be dealt with in the order of receipt by the host authority.
- 4.2 The total amount of time allowed for public participation at a meeting shall not exceed 30 minutes unless the Chairman consents to that in the interests of the proper conduct of the business of the Board.
- 4.3 In addition to the point in the preceding paragraph, the Chairman may vary the provisions of this scheme for a particular meeting should s/he believe, on taking advice, that to be appropriate.