



From mountain to sea

Participation Requests Overview

Background

Participation requests are a new way for people to have their say about what improvements they would like to see made to public services they use. They are part of a piece of Scottish Government legislation called the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act (2015).

Participation Requests

By making a participation request, a community body (or group of people in a community) can ask to start a discussion with organisations in charge of public services, such as hospitals, schools and transport, about how to improve these services.

Making a Request

The council has developed a process to enable community groups to develop and submit a Participation Request. A form for community groups to use is available on the council's website.

Community groups are encouraged to discuss their requests informally with the local Area Teams prior to formally submitting the request. Area Managers' contact details are available on the council's [website](#).

When groups are thinking about a request they should consider:

- What are the objectives - what do you want to improve for your community?
- Do you have support for your ideas within your community?
- Have you had an opportunity to do anything about your objective before?
- What barriers have previously existed to stop you being involved in achieving your objective?
- Do you require support to participate in the process?

Support to develop and complete a request is available through organisations such as local Rural Partnerships, Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action and the council's Community Learning & Development Service.

What happens next?

Once a request is granted, the public service authority invites the community group into an outcome improvement process. This is a formal discussion

between the public service authority, the community group and other relevant people or organisations. What it will look like, and how long it will take, will depend on the nature of the request. It is likely to involve meetings and written documents, and those involved will have the chance to share and listen to different ideas and perspectives on the issue.

Outcome Improvement Process

The outcome improvement process should lead to an improvement in an outcome. This may or may not be based on the ideas of the community body, and the final decision on what to do is still made by the public service authority. The community body will also get to see how the decision is reached.

Where do I find out more?

More information, guidance and the application form is available on the [council website](#).