

Article 3 – Citizens and The Council

3.01 Citizens' rights

Citizens have the following rights. Their rights to information and to participate are explained in more detail in the Access to Information Procedure Rules in Part 4 of this Constitution:

(a) Voting and petitions

Citizens on the electoral roll for the District have the right to vote in elections for Members of the Council and to sign a petition to request a referendum for an elected mayor form of Constitution.

(b) Information

Citizens have the right to:

- (i) attend meetings of Full Council and its Committees except where confidential or exempt information is likely to be disclosed, and the meeting is therefore held in private;
- (ii) see reports and background papers, and any records of decisions made by the Council and Policy Committees as detailed in the Access to Information Procedure Rules set out in Part 4 of this Constitution; and
- (iii) inspect the Council's Accounts and make their views known to the External Auditor.

(c) Participation

Citizens have the right to participate in Full Council and Committee¹ question times and contribute to investigations by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

(d) Complaints

Citizens have the right to complain to:

- (i) the Council itself under its complaints procedure;
- (ii) the Local Government Ombudsman after using the Council's own complaints procedure;
- (iii) the Standards Committee about a breach of the Members' Code of Conduct.

3.02 Citizens' responsibilities

Citizens must not be violent, abusing or threatening to Councillors or Officers and must not wilfully harm things owned by the Council, Councillors or Officers.

¹ Except Planning Committee. Separate rules governing public question time for this Committee are in place.