

Article 3 – Citizens and the Council

3.1 Citizens' Rights

Citizens have the following rights. Their rights to information and to participate are explained in more detail in Procedure Rule 1 – Access to Information, in Part 4 of this Constitution:

Voting and Petitions

Citizens on the electoral register for the area have the right to:

- 3.1.1 vote in elections where eligible;
- 3.1.2 sign a petition to request a referendum for an elected Mayor form of executive arrangements;
- 3.1.3 sign a petition to request a Community Governance Review;
- 3.1.4 submit petitions in accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme.

Information

Citizens have the rights to:

- 3.1.5 access a copy of this constitution from the Council's website;
- 3.1.6 attend meetings of the Council (and its Committees and Sub-Committees) and the Executive (including meetings of a sub committee, individual Member or Officer where Key Decisions are taken) except where confidential or exempt information is likely to be disclosed, and the meeting is therefore held in private;
- 3.1.7 find out from the 28 Day Notice of Key Decisions what business will be considered by the Leader, Executive or its Sub Committees, Portfolio Holders or Officers and when;
- 3.1.8 see reports and background papers, and any records of decisions in accordance with the Council's Access to Information Procedure Rules;
- 3.1.9 inspect the Council's accounts and make their views known to the external auditor.

Participation

Citizens have the right to:

- 3.1.10 Contact their local councillor about any matters of concern to them;
- 3.1.11 ask a question at a meeting of the Council;
- 3.1.12 establish or sign a petition in accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme;
- 3.1.13 speak at meetings of the Planning Committee in accordance with the Committee's protocol on public speaking at Planning Committee; and

Article 3 – Citizens and the Council

3.1.14 subject to invitation by the Committee, a Panel or the Chairman, to contribute to investigations by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and its Panels.

Complaints

Citizens have the right to complain to:

3.1.15 the Council under its Complaints Procedure;

3.1.16 the Ombudsman, normally after using the Council's own Complaints Procedure;

3.1.17 the Council's Monitoring Officer about a breach of the Councillors' Code of Conduct.