

## 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 area have the right to vote and to sign a petition to request a referendum for a change to the governance arrangements of the Council.
- (b) **Information.** Citizens have the right to:
- attend meetings of the Council and its Committees except where confidential or exempt information is likely to be disclosed, and the meeting is therefore held in private;
  - find out from published work programmes what decisions will be taken and when;
  - see reports and background papers (other than those disclosing confidential or exempt information), and any records of decisions made by the Council and Committees;
  - inspect the Council's accounts and make their views known to the External Auditor;
  - obtain a copy of the Constitution; and
  - inspect the register of Councillors' interests.
- (c) **Participation.** Citizens have the right to:
- participate in the question time at meetings of the Council, Committees and other Council bodies; and
  - contact their local Councillor about any matters of concern to them.
- (d) **Complaints.** Citizens have the right to complain to:
- the Council itself under its complaints scheme;

- the Ombudsman after using the Council's own complaints scheme; and
- the Council's Monitoring Officer about an alleged breach of the Councillor Code of Conduct.

### 3.02 **Citizens' Responsibilities**

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