

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 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 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 the Council, the Executive Board and its committees except where confidential or exempt information is likely to be disclosed, and the meeting is therefore held in private;
 - (ii) find out from the forward work programme what decisions will be taken by the Executive Board or Council and which issues the scrutiny committees will be considering, and when these matters will be discussed;
 - (iii) see reports and background papers, and any records of decisions made by the Council and the Executive Board; and
 - (iv) inspect the Council's accounts and make their views known to the external auditor.
- (c) Participation. Citizens have the right to participate in the Council's question time, present petitions and participate in the way in which the Council operates in accordance with the rules set out in Part 4 of this Constitution
- (d) Complaints. Citizens have the right to complain :
 - (i) to the Council itself under its complaints scheme;
 - (ii) to the Ombudsman about any injustice they consider they have suffered as a result of maladministration, but they are encouraged to use the Council's own complaints scheme first;
 - (iii) to the Ombudsman where they believe a member or co-opted member of the council has breached the Member's 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.