

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 the Access to Information Procedure Rules in Part 4 of this Constitution:

- **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.

- **Information**

Citizens have the right¹ to:

- (i) attend meetings of the Council and its Boards/Panels;
- (ii) attend meetings of the Executive when Key Decisions are being considered;
- (iii) find out from the Forward Plan what Key Decisions will be taken by the Executive and when;
- (iv) see reports and background papers, and any records of decisions made by the Council and the Executive;
- (v) inspect the Council's accounts and make their views known to the external auditor; and
- (vi) inspect the Members' Register of Interest and Gifts and Hospitality, as available on the Council's website.

Deleted: except where confidential or exempt information is likely to be disclosed, and the meeting is therefore held in private

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- **Participation**

Citizens have the right to submit deputations to Area Committees and full Council, and may be asked to contribute to investigations by Scrutiny Boards.

- **Complaints.**

Citizens have the right to complain to:

- (i) the Council itself under its complaints scheme;

¹ The rights set out in this article are subject to the Access to Information Procedure Rules, but in addition to a citizen's other private rights. An individual's private rights include the right to make a subject access request under the Data Protection Act 1998 to obtain details from the Council of the information the Council holds in relation them.

- (ii) the Ombudsman after using the Council's own complaints scheme; and/or
- (iii) the Standards Committee – Assessment Sub-Committee about a breach of the Councillor's Code of Conduct.

3.2 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.