

Constitution

Part 2: Articles of the Constitution

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 Rules in Part 4 of this Constitution.

3.1.1 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 and to vote in any such referendum.

3.1.2 Information

Citizens have the right to:

- attend meetings of the full Cabinet, the Council, and its Committees except where confidential or exempt information is likely to be disclosed, and the meeting is therefore held in private;
- See reports, papers and any records of decisions made by the Council, its Committees and Committees and the Cabinet or Cabinet Members by way of the Council's website or, on request, by the inspection of or provision of a paper copy for which a reasonable charge may be made. (except where confidential or exempt information is likely to be disclosed, as defined by legislation);
- inspect the Council's accounts and make their views known to the external auditor.

3.1.3 Participation

Citizens have the opportunity to participate in meetings in accordance with any scheme adopted by the Council and to contribute to investigations by Scrutiny Committees, where considered appropriate by the Committee.

3.1.4 Complaints

Citizens have the right to complain:

- to the Council itself under its complaints procedures relating to officers or elected members
- to the Ombudsman about any injustice they have suffered as a result of maladministration, but they are encouraged to use the Council's own internal complaints procedure first;
- to the Ombudsman where they believe a member or co-opted member of the council has breached the Member's Code of Conduct.

3.2 Citizens' Responsibilities

Citizens must not be violent, abusing or threatening to councillors or employees and must not wilfully damage any property or items owned by the Council, councillors or employees.