

Chapter 3e – Citizens and the council

3.49 Citizens' rights

- 3.49.1 Citizens have the following rights. Their rights to information and to participate are explained in more detail in the Access to Information Rules in Section 12 of this Constitution.
- 3.49.2 Voting: Citizens on the electoral roll for the area have the right to vote.
- 3.49.3 Petitions: Citizens on the electoral roll for the area have the right to sign a petition to request a referendum for an elected mayor form of Constitution.
- 3.49.4 Information: Except where confidential or Exempt information is likely to be disclosed, citizens have the right to:
- (a) attend meetings of the Council and its Committees
 - (b) attend meetings of the Executive
 - (c) find out from the council's publications what Key Decisions will be taken by the Executive and when;
 - (d) see reports and Background papers, and any records of decisions made by the Council and the Executive except those which are Exempt; and
 - (e) inspect the council's accounts and make their

views known to the external auditor.

3.49.5 Participation: Citizens have the right to participate in 'Questions by the Public' at Ordinary Meetings of the Council and contribute to investigations by Scrutiny Committees.

3.49.6 Complaints: Citizens have the right to complain to:

- (a) the council under its Complaints Policy;
- (b) the Ombudsman after exhausting the council's own Complaints Policy;
- (c) the Monitoring Officer about a breach of the Members' Code of Conduct;
- (d) the council's external auditor in relation to the accounts of the council.

3.50 Citizens' responsibilities

3.50.1 Citizens must not be violent, abusive or threatening to Members or Officers and must not willfully harm things owned by the council, Members or Officers. When attending meetings, citizens will be expected to comply with the decisions of the Chairman of that meeting.