

## **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 "Rules with regard to access to meetings and related documents of the Council, its committees and subcommittees" in Part 5 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 and its committees except where confidential or exempt information is likely to be disclosed, and the meeting is therefore held in private;
  - (ii) see reports and background papers and any records of decisions made by the Council; and
  - (iii) inspect the Council's accounts and make their views known to the external auditor.
- (c) Participation. Citizens have the right to participate at meetings of the Council and its committees in accordance with the Council's scheme of public participation.
- (d) Complaints. Citizens have the right to complain to:
  - (i) the Council itself under its complaints scheme;
  - (ii) the Local Government Ombudsman after using the Council's own complaints scheme;
  - (iii) the Accounts and Audit Committee about a breach of the Councillor's Code of Conduct.

### **3.2 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.