

## **ARTICLE 3 - CITIZENS AND THE COUNCIL**

### **3.01 CITIZENS' RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

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 and its Committees except where confidential or exempt information is likely to be disclosed, and the meeting is therefore held in private;
  - (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; and
  - (v) inspect the Council's accounts and make their views known to the external auditor.
- (c) **Complaints.** Citizens have the right to complain to:
  - (i) the Council itself under its complaints scheme;
  - (ii) the Ombudsman after using the Council's own complaints scheme;
  - (iii) the Council's Monitoring Officer about a breach of the Member's Code of Conduct.

### **3.02 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.

### **3.03 PARTICIPATION**

Citizens may be invited to contribute to investigations by the Scrutiny Committees.