

Article 3: Citizens and the Council

3.01 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.

(a) Voting and petitions

Citizens on the electoral roll for the area have the right to vote and to sign a petition to request a referendum for an elected mayor.

(b) Information

Citizens have the right to:

- (i) attend meetings of the Council, Cabinet and its committees except any part where confidential or exempt information is likely to be disclosed
- (ii) find out from the Forward Plan what key decisions will be taken by the Executive, and when
- (iii) see reports and background papers, and any records of decisions made by the Council and the Executive except any part which includes confidential or exempt information
- (iv) 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
- (iii) the Monitoring Officer if they consider that a Member has acted in breach of the Code of Conduct.

3.02 Participation

Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committees and other committees may invite Citizens to:

- (a) contribute to their investigations

(b) speak at their meetings.

Strategic Planning and Planning Committees

Public rights in respect of participation at the Strategic Planning Committee and the Planning Committee are set out in the Planning Procedure Rules in Part 4 of this Constitution