

Article 3 –Members of the Public and the Council

3.1 Members of the public have the following rights. Their rights to information and to participate are explained in more detail in the Access to Information Rules contained in Article 17 Decision Making.

(a) Voting and petitions

People 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

Members of the Public 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 that part of the meeting dealing with that information is therefore held in private
- (ii) Attend meetings of the Cabinet when key decisions are being considered
- (iii) Find out from the Schedule of Decisions what key decisions will be taken by the Cabinet and when
- (iv) See reports and background papers, and any records of decisions made by the Council and the Cabinet
- (v) Inspect the Council's accounts and make their views known to the external auditor

(c) Participation

People have the right to participate in the Council's public open forum as detailed under Article 4 and public speaking sessions at Development Management Committee and Licensing Committees as detailed in Article 9. They may also be invited to contribute to investigations carried out by the Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

(d) Complaints

Members of the Public have the right to complain to

- (i) The Council itself through the customer feedback process
- (ii) The Ombudsman after using the Council's own customer feedback process

3.2 Responsibility of Members of the Public

Members of the public must not be violent, abusive or threatening to Councillors or Officers and must not wilfully harm things owned by the Council, Councillors or officers.