

## **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 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;
- (v) inspect the Council's accounts and make their views known to the external auditor; and
- (vi) participate in the Council's question time.

#### **(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 Standards Board for England about a breach of the Members' Code of Conduct.

### **3.02 Citizens responsibilities**

Citizens must not be violent, abusive or threatening to councillors or officers and must not wilfully harm councillors or officers or damage things owned by the Council.