

ARTICLE 3 - CITIZENS AND THE COUNCIL

3.1 Citizens' Rights

Citizens have the following rights:-

(a) **Voting and Petitions**

- (i) Citizens on the electoral roll for the District have the right to vote and sign a petition to request a referendum for an elected mayor.
- (ii) Citizens have the right to sign a petition on any matter within the Council's purview (excluding certain issues including Licensing and Planning matters) and for any such petition to be considered by the Council as set out in the Council's Petitions Scheme. The Council's Petition Scheme is set out at Part 5 of this 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.
(Citizens' rights to information are explained in more detail in the Access to Information Rules in Part 4 of this Constitution)

(c) **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.