

## Article 3 - Citizens and the Council

### 3.01 Citizens have the following rights:

- (a) **Voting and petitions.** Citizens on the Borough's electoral roll have the right to vote and sign a petition to request a referendum for an elected mayor, or to submit a petition on other matters (Council Procedure Rule 21). The Council will deal with petitions in accordance with the statutory rules that apply to them and with the Council's own petitions scheme.
- (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;
  - (iii) access information held by the Council under the Freedom of Information Act.
- (c) **Participation.** Citizens have a right to:
  - (i) submit questions to the Council in accordance with Council Procedure Rule number 21 in Part 4, and submit questions to Hub Committee and Overview and Scrutiny Committee in accordance with Procedure rules
  - (ii) be invited by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee to assist in matters of local interest.
  - (iii) May participate in the public participation schemes of the Development Management and Licensing Committee
- (d) **Complaints.** Citizens have the right to complain to the:
  - (i) Council itself under its complaints procedure;
  - (ii) Local Government Ombudsman (after using the Council's own complaints scheme);
  - (iii) The Monitoring Officer about a breach by a Councillor of the Members Code of Conduct.

### 3.02 Citizens' responsibilities

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