

Part 2 - Articles of the Constitution

Article 3: Citizens and the Council

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The Constitution sets out what citizens can expect from their Council and what rights they have. However, with rights come responsibilities and it is also the role of the Constitution to show how the Council expects to be treated in return.

3.1 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, the Executive and other bodies of the Council except where confidential or exempt information is likely to be disclosed, and the meeting is therefore held in private;
 - (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; and
 - (iv) inspect the Council's accounts and make their views known to the external auditor.
- (c) **Participation.** Citizens have the right to participate in the public question time sessions at Executive and the Salcombe Harbour Board and may be invited to contribute to the role of Scrutiny and Policy Development Groups. Citizens may also participate in the respective public participation schemes of the Development Control and Licensing Committees.
- (d) **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 Council's Monitoring Officer about a breach of the Members' Code of Conduct.

3.2 Citizens' responsibilities

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