

Part 2 –Article 8 (Citizens Rights)

The rights of members of the public shall include the following:

- vote at local elections if they are registered to vote with their relevant District Council;
- contact their local County Councillor about any matters of concern to them;
- obtain a copy of the Constitution free of charge;
- attend meetings of the Council and its Committees except where, confidential or exempt information is being discussed - see Access to Information Procedure Rules set out at Appendix 'H' to this Constitution;
- find out what key decisions are to be decided and when by the Cabinet Committees, Cabinet Members or officers;
- attend meetings of the Cabinet except where confidential or exempt information is being discussed - see Access to Information Procedure Rules set out at Appendix 'H' to this Constitution;
- see reports and background papers, and any record of decisions made by the Council, Cabinet and Cabinet Members with the exception of those containing confidential or exempt information;
- (details of members of the public's rights to inspect agenda, reports and minutes and to attend meetings are set out in Appendix 'H' of this Constitution);
- complain to the Council about its services in line with its formal Complaints Procedure, details of which are set out at Appendix 'K' of this Constitution;
- complain to the Ombudsman if they think the Council has not followed its procedures properly. However, the Ombudsman would prefer complaints to be pursued via the Council's own Complaints Procedure first;
- complain to the Monitoring Officer if they have evidence which they think shows that a County Councillor or voting Co-optee has not followed the Council's Code of Conduct;
- inspect the Council's accounts and make their views known to the external auditor; and
- submit petitions in accordance with the Council's petitions scheme.