

ARTICLE 3 – CITIZENS AND THE COUNCIL

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 Procedure Rules in Part 4 Section 2 of this Constitution:

- (a) **Voting and petitions.** 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 form of Governance.
- (b) **E-Petition.** Anyone who lives, works or studies in the District of Blaby can submit or sign an e-Petition. An E-Petition is a petition which collects signatures online. This allows petitions and supporting information to be made available to a potentially much wider audience than a traditional paper based petition.
- (c) **Councillors.** Citizens can contact their local ward Councillor(s).
- (d) **Information.** Citizens have the right to:
 - (i) attend meetings of the Council and its Committees except during those parts 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 (see Article 13) 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; and
 - (v) inspect the Council's accounts and make their views known to the external auditor.
 - (vi) Obtain a copy of the Constitution.
- (e) **Complaints.** Citizens have the right to complain to:
 - (i) the Council itself under its complaints scheme;
 - (ii) the Ombudsman after having first raised their complaint with the Council under the Council's own complaints scheme, although the

Ombudsman may get involved earlier in extenuating circumstances;

- (iii) the Monitoring Officer about a breach of the Councillor's Code of Conduct.

3.2 CITIZENS' RESPONSIBILITIES

Citizens must not be violent, abusive or threatening to Councillors or Officers and must not wilfully harm things owned by the Council, Councillors or Officers.