

Article 3 - Citizens and the Council

3.01 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 of this Constitution:

(a) Voting and petitions

- (i) Citizens on the electoral roll for the area have the right to vote at local elections.
- (ii) Citizens on the electoral roll also have the right to sign a petition to request a referendum for an elected mayor. If a petition for a referendum for an elected mayor signed by 5% of the local electorate is received a referendum on proposals for executive arrangements, including an elected mayor, must be held.
- (iii) Anyone who lives, works or studies within the Borough of Wyre can sign or submit a petition in accordance with the Council's Petitions Scheme (as set out in Part 5.07).

(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) attend meetings of the Cabinet (except where exempt information is likely to be disclosed);
- (iii) find out from the Schedule of Executive Decisions what key decisions will be taken by the Cabinet or one of its members and when;
- (iv) see reports and background papers, and any records of decisions made by the Council and the Cabinet; and
- (v) inspect the Council's accounts and make their views known to the external auditor.

(c) Participation

Citizens have the right to ask questions at Cabinet or Council meetings (in accordance with the Procedure Rules in Part 4), contribute to reviews undertaken by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and comment on individual planning and licensing applications.

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

3.02 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.