

Article 3 – The Public and the Council

3.1 Public Rights

Members of the public have the following rights:

- i. Voting and petitions. People on the electoral roll for Norfolk have the right to vote and sign a petition to request a referendum on a different form of governance.
- ii. Information. Representatives of the media and Members of the public have the right to:
 - a) attend meetings of the Council, the Cabinet and Council committees, except where confidential or exempt information is likely to be disclosed and the meeting is held in private;
 - b) find out what key decisions will be taken by the Leader and Cabinet and when;
 - c) see agendas for meetings, reports by officers, background papers and records of decisions;
 - d) inspect the Council's accounts and make representations to the external auditor.

Public rights to information are explained in more detail in the Access to Information Procedure Rules, set out in Appendix 13.

- iii. Participation. The rights of the public to ask questions and speak at meetings are explained in more detail in the Cabinet and Committee Procedure Rules in Appendices 8 and 9 and the procedures for Public Speaking at Committees in Appendix 26
- iv. Complaints. Members of the public have the right to complain to:
 - a) the Council under its complaints scheme
 - b) the Local Government Ombudsman after using the Council's own complaints scheme
 - c) the Monitoring Officer about a breach of the Members' Code of Conduct.

3.2 Responsibilities of the Public

Members of the public must not be violent, abusive or threatening to Councillors or officers and must not willfully harm property owned by the Council, Councillors or officers. Anyone causing a disturbance in a meeting will be removed from that meeting. They should also comply with the law and the Council's procedures, in dealing with the Council.