

Article 3 - Citizens and the Council

3.1 Citizens rights

Residents and others who avail of the Council's services have the following rights in relation to the operation of the Council. Their rights to information and to attend meetings of the Council or its committees are explained in more detail in the Access to Information Rules in Part 3 of this constitution.

Information

- (a) 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 with the exclusion of public and press in accordance with schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.
 - (ii) see reports and background papers, and any records of decisions made by the Council and the executive except where confidential or exempt information is likely to be disclosed, and the meeting is therefore held in private with the exclusion of public and press in accordance with schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.
 - (iii) Information under FOIA, EIR and DPA

Complaints.

- (b) Citizens have the right to complain to:
- (i) the Council itself under its complaints scheme; or
 - (ii) the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Complaints in respect of an allegation that a Councillor (or former Councillor) has failed, or may have failed, to comply with the Northern Ireland Local Government Code of Conduct for Councillors. Guidance on making a complaint to the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Complaints is available on the website for the Office of the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Complaints www.ni-ombudsman.org.uk

3.2 Citizens responsibilities

Citizens must not be violent, abusive or threatening to councillors or officers and must not wilfully harm property owned by the Council, councillors or officers.