

ARTICLE 9

RIGHTS OF CITIZEN'S

Citizens have a number of rights in dealing with the Council.

Some of these are legal rights, while others depend on the Council's own policies, procedures and processes.

Citizens have the right to:

- Vote at local elections if they are registered to do so;
- Sign a petition;
- Contact their local Councillor about any matters of concern;
- Obtain a copy of the Council's Constitution;
- Attend meetings of the Council and its committees, sub committees and working groups, except where confidential business is being discussed;
- Participate in the Council's public participation arrangements (see Article 1 of the Constitution) at meetings of the Council and its committees, sub committees and working groups;
- See agendas, reports and background papers and minutes recording decisions made by the Council, except where this is confidential information;
- Complain to the Council using the Council's Comments and Complaints Procedure;
- Complain to the Durham County Council Standards Committee if they have evidence which they think shows that a Councillor has not followed the Council's Members' Code of Conduct;
- Inspect the Council's accounts and make their views known to the external auditor within the given timeframes;
- Take part in community engagement exercises, open days and surveys undertaken by the Town Council.

Citizens' Responsibilities

Citizens must not be violent, abusive or threatening towards Members or Officers and must not wilfully harm assets owned by the Town Council.