

4. THE PUBLIC

The council welcomes participation by members of the public in its work. Members of the public who grow up, study, work, live and visit the Island have a number of rights in their dealings with the council, including:

- (a) vote at local elections, if they are registered
- (b) contact their local councillor about any matter of concern to them
- (c) attend meetings of Full Council, Cabinet, Scrutiny and Regulatory committees, except where confidential or exempt information is likely to be disclosed
- (d) find out from the Forward Plan what major decisions will be taken and when by Full Council, Cabinet, Cabinet members and staff
- (e) view agendas, public reports, background papers and any public records of decisions made by Full Council, Cabinet, Cabinet members, Scrutiny and Regulatory committees and staff
- (f) sign a petition:
 - (i) requesting the establishment of a parish council or similar Community Governance Review
 - (ii) requesting a referendum to replace the council's political management model
 - (iii) on any matter within the council's purview
- (g) inspect the following documents:
 - (i) the Constitution
 - (ii) the Register of Members' Interests
 - (iii) the council's accounts as part of the annual audit and make their views known to the external auditor
 - (iv) pay and remuneration policies for chief and senior staff members
- (h) access other information as set out in the Access to Information rules (see Part 5 Section 2)
- (i) make complaints about services to:
 - (i) the council, under its customer complaints scheme
 - (ii) the Ombudsman, after using the council's complaints scheme
 - (iii) the Monitoring Officer, about alleged breaches of the Member Code of Conduct
- (j) ask questions at most meetings
- (k) contribute to the discussions of Scrutiny committees at the discretion of the chairman of the meeting
- (l) take part in the council's consultation activities
- (m) initiate a Community Right to Buy, Community Right to Build, Community Right to Bid, Community Right to Challenge or participate in Neighbourhood Planning, as identified by the Localism Act 2011

Members of the public must not harass or be violent, abusive or threatening to councillors or staff and must comply with the procedures for public engagement at meetings.