

Article 3 – The Public and the Council

3.1 Rights of Members of the Public

3.1.1 Members of the Public have the following rights:-

- a) if their name appears on the electoral roll for the District; to vote;
- b) to contact the Council about any matters of concern – including submitting a Petition in accordance with the adopted Petition Scheme – in Part 9;
- c) to attend meetings of the Council and its Committees and Sub-Committees except where confidential or exempt information is likely to be disclosed and it is in the public interest that such information is considered in private;
- d) to attend meetings of the Cabinet and any committees of the Cabinet except where confidential or exempt information is likely to be disclosed and it is in the public interest that such information is considered in private;
- e) to inspect the 28 Day Notice of the Cabinet to ascertain when key decisions are likely to be made;
- f) to have access to agendas and reports and inspect background papers and the record of decisions made by the Council, its Committees and Sub-Committees and the Cabinet except where this would result in the disclosure of exempt or confidential information which on public interest grounds is intended for consideration in private or has been considered in private;
- g) to inspect and make copies (usually on payment of an appropriate charge) of the documents listed in Part 8 of this Constitution;
- h) to inspect the Council's accounts at the designated time and make their views known to the external auditor;
- i) to be consulted about the Council's statutory plans and strategies including the Sustainable Community Strategy and Development Plan
- j) when invited to do so, to contribute to the work of an Overview Committee;
- k) to participate in, or petition to request, a referendum on a change of governance arrangements;
- l) to complain to the Council about any of its services in accordance with the adopted Complaints Procedure as set out on the Council's website www.chiltern.gov.uk

- m) to complain to the Ombudsman if they think that the Council is responsible for maladministration but only after they have followed the Council's Complaints Procedure;
- n) to complain to the Council's Monitoring Officer if they consider that a councillor (a District or Parish/Town Councillor within Chiltern District) has not followed the adopted Code of Conduct for Elected and Co-opted Members or any other Code or Protocol from time to time adopted by the Council which governs the conduct of elected or co-opted members of the Council;
- o) to inspect this Constitution and obtain a copy on the payment of an appropriate charge; and
- p) to request information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

3.2 Responsibilities of Members of the Public

3.2.1 Members of the public:

- 1) shall not interrupt or disrupt any of the proceedings of the Council or be violent, abusive or threatening to councillors or officers;
- 2) shall promptly leave the Council Chamber or other meeting room when councillors wish to discuss exempt or confidential items of business or when the chairman presiding at the meeting orders the public to leave in order to restore order; and
- 3) shall not willfully cause any harm to any land or property of the Council.