

ARTICLE 5 – CHAIRING THE COUNCIL

5.1 Role and function of the Chairman

The Chairman of Council and in his/her absence, the Vice-Chairman will have the following roles and functions:

The Chairman of Council, or when deputising, the Vice-Chairman of Council is the District's first citizen and the civic figurehead of the whole Council.

The Chairman of Council, or Vice-Chairman of Council, will represent the Council at both external or internal Civic events, will welcome Royal visitors within protocol laid down by the Lord Lieutenant and host appropriate foreign civic dignitaries.

5.2 Chairing the Council Meeting

The chairman will be elected by the Council annually. The chairman will have the following responsibilities:

1. to uphold and promote the purposes of the Constitution, and to interpret the Constitution when necessary (after consultation with Monitoring Officer);
2. to preside over meetings of the Council so that its business can be carried out efficiently and with regard to the rights of councillors and the interests of the community;
3. to ensure that the Council meeting is a forum for the debate of matters of concern to the local community and the place at which members who are not on the Executive or hold committee chairs are able to hold the Executive and committee chairmen to account;
4. to promote public involvement in the Council's activities, sharing this promotional role as appropriate with the Leader;
5. to be the conscience of the Council; and
6. to attend such civic and ceremonial functions as the Council and he/she determines appropriate.
7. to arbitrate on special urgency rules relating to Executive key decisions, and decisions outside the budget and policy framework specified in Section 16 of the Access to Information Rules and the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules set out in Part 4 of this Constitution.