

ARTICLE 5 - CHAIRING THE COUNCIL

5.1 Legal title

The legal term for the person elected to preside at Council meetings and be the civic head of the council is “Chairman” of the Council.

5.2 Form of Address

The Council permits the incoming office holder to indicate if the term “Chair”, “Chairman” or “Chair(person)” of the Council is their preferred form of address. This right also applies to the incoming councillor to the position of Vice Chairman.

5.3 Election of the Chair of the Council

The Council will, at its Annual Meeting, elect a councillor to be its Chairman for the Council Year i.e. until the next Annual Meeting. The Council will also appoint a Councillor to be the Vice Chair (person).

5.4 Role and Functions of Chair of the Council

The functional responsibilities of the Office of Chair of the Council are as follows:

1. To uphold and promote the purposes of the Constitution insofar as they relate to the conduct of Council meetings;
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 make rulings at meetings of the Council on the interpretation of the Council’s procedural rules in the context of efficient and effective decision making;
4. To exercise discretion in the management of public and councillor submissions;
5. To ensure that the Council meeting is a forum for the debate of matters of concern to the local community;
6. To promote the Council’s strategic objectives and values in exercising all functional responsibilities;
7. To promote public involvement in the Council’s activities;
8. To attend such civic and ceremonial functions as the Council and s/he determines appropriate.

(Notes:

The Chairman will be guided by the Chairman’s Civic Handbook.

The Chair (person) of the Council is a different office to that of the Civic Mayor of Bath. The latter is an office conferred by Civic Charter on the person selected by the Charter Trustees of the City of Bath to hold that position for any given year. The Mayor of Bath is a civic and ceremonial office.

The Charter Trustees comprise all the Bath & North East Somerset Councillors elected to represent wards within the City of Bath. The Charter Trustees have no local government

administrative powers. The Charter Trustees are a separate corporate body from the Council.)