

ARTICLE 5 - CHAIRING THE COUNCIL

5.01 Role and Function of the Chair of the Council

The Chair of the Council and, in his or her absence, the Deputy Chair will have the following roles and functions:

(a) Ceremonial Role

The Chair represents the symbol of the Council and the District of North West Leicestershire. He or she is seen as the first citizen of the District and in ceremonial matters will take precedence.

The Chair also represents an expression of social cohesion. He or she will act as a link between the various bodies and organisations visited and the Council.

(b) Chairing the Council Meeting

The Chair of the Council and his/her deputy will be elected by the Council annually. The Chair will have the following responsibilities:

- (i) to uphold and promote the purposes of the Constitution, and to interpret the Constitution when necessary;
- (ii) to preside over meetings of the full Council so that its business can be carried out efficiently and with regard to the rights of councillors and the interests of the community;
- (iii) 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 Cabinet are able to hold the Cabinet to account;
- (iv) to promote public involvement in the Council's activities;
- (v) to be the conscience of the Council; and
- (vi) to attend such civic and ceremonial functions as the Council and he/she determines appropriate.

The Deputy Chair will deputise for the Chair whenever the Chair is unavailable or unable to act.