

Protocol on the Role of the Chairman of the Council and Committees

1.0 The Chairman of the Council's formal role is set out in Standing Order 3.0. However, in a Council with declared political groups and a Leader, particularly where the Council has no overall majority control, the Chairman of the Council or indeed any Chairman may from time to time be faced with difficult decisions as to how he or she should act in particular situations. This protocol attempts to assist in such circumstances.

2.0 The Chairman has by law a personal vote at all Council and Committee meetings as do all other Members. In addition, by law, he or she has an additional casting vote. The Chairman may cast one or both votes in whatever way he or she chooses and this protocol does not and cannot alter that position.

3.0 There may be occasions when a particular matter is finely balanced and the Chairman's casting vote is required. In such circumstances, the Chairman may wish to consider the following matters in deciding how or whether to cast that vote:

The declared Aims of the Council.

The Council's Constitution

The Council's adopted Budget.

Any policy adopted by the Council and of relevance to the matter under consideration.

The convention adopted by some decision-making bodies, that if in doubt, the person with the casting vote should cast it in favour of the status quo.

Views expressed by political Group Leaders, Portfolio Members, by Members generally and by the Council's Officers.