

## **Part 2 - Articles of the Constitution**

### **Article 5: Chairing the Council**

# Article 5 – Chairing the Council

## 5.1 Role and Function of the Chairman of the Council

All 40 Members elect a Chairman normally each May. The Council has decided to adopt the term Chairman for all holders of this post. The Council also appoints a Vice-Chairman who acts as the Chairman in his/her absence.

The Chairman of the Council, and in their absence, the Vice Chairman of the Council will have the following roles and functions:

### **Ceremonial Role**

The Chairman of the Council represents the Council on ceremonial occasions, and as such, the Chairman of the Council is a symbol of authority, of an open society and an expression of social cohesion.

### **Chairing the Council Meeting**

*The Council meeting has a new and distinctive role to play under Executive arrangements and the Chairman of the Council's role in presiding over that body should reflect that.*

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

1. to uphold and promote the purposes of the Constitution, and to interpret the Constitution when necessary;
2. to preside over meetings of the Council so that its business can be carried out efficiently and with regard to the rights of Members 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 are able to hold the Executive to account;
4. to promote public involvement in the Council's activities; and
5. to attend such civic and ceremonial functions as the Council and he/she determines appropriate.