

PROTOCOL FOR THE ELECTION OF THE VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

Purpose of Protocol

1. To regulate the procedure for the election of the Vice-Chairman of the Council.
2. To establish the entitlement of each political group to nominate to the position of Vice-Chairman.
3. To facilitate a system whereby each group shall be able to nominate to the position of Vice-Chairman on a regular basis.

Details of Protocol

4. The protocol shall operate by means of a points system. Each political group shall be allocated one point for each of its members. The total number of points to be allocated shall be the same as the number of Councillors overall.
5. In the first year of the operation of this protocol, the group with the highest points total (and hence number of Councillors) shall be entitled to nominate for the Vice-Chairmanship.
6. In subsequent years, the equivalent calculation shall be carried out but with the following variations:
 - (a) the number of points given in year one to each group shall be increased by the total number of members for year two;
 - (b) the group which last held the Vice-Chairmanship shall, in the following year have its points score reduced by the total number of members of the Council;
 - (c) after taking account of the calculations at (a) and (b), the political group with the highest total will be entitled to nominate for the Vice-Chairmanship.
7. In each year, the process outlined in 6(a) - (c) will be repeated. An example of the relevant calculations is attached as an appendix.

Chairman of the Council

8. The person nominated under this protocol and appointed by the Council under the terms of this protocol as Vice-Chairman of the Council shall automatically become the Chairman of the following Council year.

Suspension of Protocol

9. It shall be open to the Council to suspend the operation of this protocol at any Annual Council meeting if this is in the best interests of the Council. Such suspension shall, however, only be agreed if 65% of the Council membership support a motion to that effect.