



Meeting COUNTY COUNCIL

date 18th June 2009

agenda item number

CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL

The Chairman of the County Council is elected annually by the full Council from amongst its Councillors. The Chairman continues in office, unless s/he resigns or becomes disqualified, resigns, or until a successor becomes entitled to act as Chairman (Section 3, Local Government Act 1972).

Section 4 of the 1972 Act requires that the election of a chairman shall be the first item of business to be transacted at an annual meeting. This is reflected in the Council's own Standing Orders, which further require the appointment of a Vice-Chairman to be the second item of business at an annual meeting.

In Nottinghamshire, the procedure is usually as follows:-

The outgoing Chairman The Hon Joan Taylor MBE, makes a short address to the Council and then asks for a nomination for Chairman of the County Council for the coming year. Once the nomination has been seconded, the Council will be asked if there are any further nominations, each of which also has to be seconded.

The Council will then be asked to vote. If there is only one nomination, members will be asked to signal their votes for, against or in abstention. If there is more than one nomination, the names of the nominees will be put to the Council in reverse order (ie the most recent nomination first, finishing with the original nomination) and members will be asked only to vote 'for' their preferred nominee. If there is an equal number of votes for each of two or more of the nominees, the outgoing Chairman, who at this stage is still the Chairman of the Council, will have a second, or casting vote. The nominee who received the most votes will then be declared Chairman of Nottinghamshire County Council until the appointment of a successor at the 2010 annual meeting and will take their declaration of acceptance of office, be invested with the chain of office and assume the chair of the meeting.

The newly-elected Chairman will then follow a similar procedure to that outlined above to secure the appointment of a Vice-Chairman.