

Business Chair

Pursuant to section 15 (2) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council must elect a Chair at the Annual Meeting of the Council in May.

In accordance with standing orders the Chair is responsible for ensuring that effective and lawful decisions are taken at meetings of the Council and assisted by the Clerk, guides activities by managing the meetings of the Full Council.

The council is not lawfully constituted without a Chair.

Ashington Town Council does not adopt the Town Mayor model, legally entitled to the Chair of a Town Council by Section 245 (6) of the Local Government Act 1972.

The Council also appoints a Vice-Chair to take up the position in the absence of the of Chair.

Civic Head

Ashington Town Council has a position named Civic Head, the Cllr in post is appointed by resolution of the Council, at the Annual Meeting in May. Additionally, the Council appoints a Deputy Civic Head to take up the position in the absence of the Civic Head.

The Civic Head is expected to attend civic and ceremonial functions that require a civic presence. This includes events in the community, such as openings and fundraising events organised by voluntary and charitable organisations, and other events determined by the Council.

The role of Civic Head is not statutory, nor is it governed by the same legislation and civic protocol as that of Town Mayor. Therefore, the Council can agree the responsibilities of the Civic Head in regards attending events, but there is no power to delegate any decision-making responsibility.

Leader

Ashington Town Council appoint a Leader and Deputy Leader by resolution of the Council, at the Annual Meeting in May. Additionally, the Council appoints a Deputy Leader to take up the position in the absence of the Civic Head.

The role of Leader is not statutory, nor is it described in any of the governing documents relating to Town and Parish Councils.

Ashington Town Council delegate to this role the authority to work directly with the Town Clerk, Chair of the Council and Committee Chairs to develop and propose the strategic direction and policy objectives of the Council.

Whilst delegating to this role, the Council and its officers understand the legal limitations and acknowledge that the Leader of the Council has no executive decision-making power to act on the Council's behalf. All agreements and negotiations are subject to authorisation by the appropriate committee or Council.

Roles have been included in Standing Orders