

The role of the Chairman of West Sussex County Council

The Chairman has three key roles at West Sussex:

- **Governance** – the Chairman acts as the apolitical guardian of the County Council, chairing Council meetings and having an overview of the fairness and effectiveness of the Constitution.
- **Standards** – the Chairman has a duty to oversee the promoting and maintaining of high standards of behaviour and ethical conduct of members and officers of the County Council.
- **Civic** – the Chairman is the Civic head of the Council, hosting functions and acting as an ambassador for the Council, visiting organisations and attending functions throughout the county.

The Chairman is assisted in their duties by the Vice-Chairman, who is able to deputise for the Chairman at meetings and events.

Protocol

The Chairman can be addressed as 'Chairman' or 'Madam Chairman' at meetings and events. The Chairman's consort may be invited to join the Chairman at events and functions.

The Chairman will usually wear the West Sussex County Council badge of office at meetings and events. The badge of office bears the Coat of Arms of the County Council and is worn around the neck with a blue ribbon. There is no other formal clothing tradition for the Chairman of the Council.

The Chairman is happy to meet local communities and organisations throughout the county. To invite the Chairman to any function, please contact gina.hall@westsussex.gov.uk.

By long-standing tradition at the County Council, the Chairman does not have a charity or hold any charity fund.

Precedence

In recognition of the historic and ceremonial relevance of the position of Chairman of the County Council, this gives the holder of the role precedence at certain civic events within the county.

The Lord-Lieutenant and the High Sheriff have precedence over any civic guests at events.

The Chairman of the County Council then has precedence at any County Council events and any events of a countywide nature. This includes most Royal visits to the county.

If an event is organised by another council, such as a district, borough, town or parish council, then that Council's chairman or mayor would usually take precedence.