

**PROCEDURE FOR ELECTING CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN
OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL**

Purpose of Report

1 The nomination of candidates for the offices of Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council is time consuming. This report suggests a way of shortening the process.

Present Procedure

2 Standing order 6 of Part 1 standing orders lays down that not only the ballot, but also the *nomination* of candidates for the offices of Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council, shall be conducted in secrecy. This necessitates the circulation of nomination slips to, and collection from, every member of the Council. They are then validated and counted with the main purpose of establishing how many valid nominations exist (a nomination is not valid unless supported by at least two members). No indication is given to the Council of the level of support for each candidate. That becomes clear to members only after the secret ballot.

3 No purpose is served by conducting nominations in secret. The officers handling the election process know the extent of support for each candidate but the members of the Council do not. Unless the Council can see some value in shrouding nominations in secrecy, the exercise is meaningless.

Proposed Improvement

4 The member presiding at the elections would call for nominations to be made openly. Any member proposed and seconded would be eligible, if they wished, to have their name entered into the ballot. The requirement for members not present to have indicated in writing to the Director of Corporate Services that they were willing to be considered would continue. A secret ballot would be conducted according to the current rules if there were more than one nomination.

Recommendation

5. To recommend the County Council to abolish the secret nomination process and revise standing order 6 of part 1 standing orders as shown on the reverse of this report.

KEITH ROBINSON
Chief Executive
July, 2000

Unpublished documents relied upon in the production of this report: NONE

Environmental impact of the recommendations contained in this report: NONE