

ARTICLE 5 - CHAIRING THE FULL COUNCIL

[Statutory References: Sections 3, 5, 245 Schedule 12 Local Government Act 1972, as amended by Section 46 and Schedule 3 Local Government Act 2000, Chapter 2 DETR Guidance]

1. ROLE AND FUNCTION OF THE MAYOR OF THE COUNCIL

1.1 The Mayor and, in their absence, the Deputy Mayor will have the following roles and functions:

a) Ceremonial Role

The office of Mayor of the Council has both a symbolic and practical importance. The Mayor is the First Citizen of the Borough and as such is the recognised representative and spokesperson of the Council on all civic and ceremonial occasions and is the figurehead of the community which the Council serves.

In addition to chairing Council meetings and signing legal documents, the Mayor attends many events and official engagements throughout the Borough, and is a vital link between the community and the Council. The Mayor may also raise funds for local charities.

b) Chairing the Council Meetings

In addition to the ceremonial role, the Mayor of the Council will be the person presiding over Council meetings.

The Mayor will be elected by the Council annually at the Annual Council meeting in May. The Mayor will have the following responsibilities:

- To uphold and promote the purposes of the Constitution and to interpret the Constitution when necessary; the Mayor's interpretation of the Constitution at Council meetings shall be final;
- To preside over meetings of the Council so that its business can be carried out efficiently and with regard to the rights of Councillors and the interests of the community;
- To ensure that the Council meeting is a forum for the debate of matters of concern to the local community and the place at which Members who are not on the Cabinet are able to hold the Cabinet to account;
- To promote public involvement in the Council's activities.