

Article 5 – The Lord Mayor and Chairing of the Council

5.01 Role and function of the Lord Mayor

Any elected Member of the Council is eligible for election to the office of Lord Mayor or Deputy Lord Mayor, with the only exception being for members of the Executive.

The Lord Mayor is elected each year from the 39 Councillors at Annual Council in May. The Deputy Lord Mayor is appointed at the same meeting.

The Lord Mayor throughout their term of office of one year should remain impartial in all matters of policy and should not be involved in the direction of affairs or be involved in any campaigns. The Lord Mayor should also not be involved in any Council policy or activities of a controversial nature.

The Lord Mayor may be a member without voting powers of every standing committee appointed by the Council (with the exception of the Executive) except where otherwise provided by statute or a scheme made under statutory authority.

Whilst the Lord Mayor is non-political during their term of office, the Deputy Lord Mayor remains politically active and may also be a committee member (with the only exception being for a member of Executive).

5.02 Civic Role

The Council's Lord Mayor, supported by the Deputy Lord Mayor and their Consorts, will perform the Council's civic role. This entails representing, supporting and promoting the businesses and the people of Exeter.

The Lord Mayor will decide which civic and ceremonial functions during their year of office. These events:

- (a) promote the city through business and community activities;
- (b) support local charities and community organisations; and
- (c) raise funds for their own chosen charity.

5.03 Chairing the Council Meeting

The Lord Mayor also has the following responsibilities:

- (a) 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;
- (b) to uphold and promote the purposes of the Constitution, and to interpret the Constitution when necessary; and
- (c) to ensure that the Council meeting is a forum for debate and the place at which members can be held to account.