

## **Article 5 – Chairing the Council**

### **5.01 Role and function of the Lord Mayor**

The Lord Mayor and in his/her absence, the Deputy Lord Mayor will have the following roles and functions:

#### **Ceremonial Role**

- 5.02 Exeter is very proud of its Lord Mayoralty which dates back to the year 1207 and can claim to have the most senior *Right Worshipful Lord Mayoralty* in the country.
- 5.03 Each year, in May, a new Lord Mayor is elected, by fellow councillors, to serve for one year. The Lord Mayor's role is non-political. The Lord Mayor is supported during his/her year in office by a Deputy Lord Mayor.
- 5.04 The Lord Mayor takes part in ceremonies such as Legal Sunday, Lammas Fair, University Sunday etc. On such occasions the Lord Mayor is in full regalia and accompanied by the Cap and Sword and an escort of Mace Bearers and processes with Honorary Aldermen, past Lord Mayors, Councillors and JP's.
- 5.05 Although he/she elects to support one charity during the year, the Lord Mayor plays an important part in the community life of Exeter and becomes Honorary president of a variety of charitable and other organisations. The Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor attend, on average, approximately 500 functions a year.

### **Chairing the Council Meeting**

**5.06** The Lord Mayor also has the following responsibilities:

1. 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;
2. to uphold and promote the purposes of the Constitution, and to interpret the Constitution when necessary;
3. to ensure that the Council meeting is a forum for debate and the place at which members can be held to account.