

Article 5

The Mayor

Introduction

This Article describes the appointment and role of the Mayor

5.01 Appointment of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor will be appointed annually by the Council from amongst the Councillors.

Neither the Mayor nor Deputy Mayor can be a member of the Executive.

The Deputy Mayor may stand-in for the Mayor in respect of all the roles and functions in paragraphs 5.02 and 5.03 whenever the Mayor is unable to act (for example, due to an overlap of events). If the Deputy Mayor is also unavailable to perform a role or function in paragraph 5.02, it shall be open for the Mayor to request a former Mayor of the Borough, still serving as an elected Councillor, to act in his or her place for that particular occasion.

5.02 Ceremonial

- (i) The Mayor shall be the First Citizen of the Borough;
- (ii) The Mayor will promote the Council as a whole and act as a focal point for the community;
- (iii) The Mayor will preside over civic functions;
- (iv) The Mayor will carry out ceremonial duties on behalf of the Authority. He/she will be a symbol of the Authority and of an open society and will perform his/her duties in a manner that develops and reinforces the social cohesion of the Borough;
- (v) The Mayor will promote local charitable and voluntary causes where they benefit the people of Harrow;
- (vi) The Mayor will also personally select a local charity or charities and raise funds specifically for it or them during his or her year of office;
- (vii) The Mayor will promote citizenship and participation;

- (viii) The Mayor will act as a non-partisan ambassador of the Council at notable events, for example, in meeting and greeting international delegations;
- (ix) The Mayor will put forward local people who are deemed to be deserving for national awards and honours (for example, local people who have made a unique or exceptional contribution to the Borough in a voluntary capacity);
- (x) The Mayor will lead the Council's support and activities for Remembrance Sunday and other similar locally marked national events.

5.03 Chairing meetings of the Council

The Mayor will have the following responsibilities:

- (i) to uphold and promote the purposes of the Constitution, and to interpret it when necessary;
- (ii) 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;
- (iii) 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 Executive are able to hold the Executive Members to account;
- (iv) to promote public involvement in the Council's activities;
- (v) such other duties that may fall to the Mayor to exercise by virtue of statute or this Constitution.

In the absence of the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor will chair meetings of the Council. In the absence of both the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor, the Council will, as a first item of business, appoint one of its Members to chair the meeting.