

ARTICLE 5 - CHAIRING THE COUNCIL

5.1 ROLE AND FUNCTION OF THE LORD MAYOR

The Royal Charter of 1897 conferred the right of the First Citizen in Leeds to be “styled, entitled and called” Lord Mayor of Leeds.

The Lord Mayor, elected at the Annual Meeting of the Council, acts as Chair of the Council, is Leeds’ first citizen, represents all the people of the City, and, for the year of office, is non-political.

The Lord Mayor will have the following roles and functions:

- to be the First Citizen of Leeds;
- to promote the Council as a whole and act as a focal point for the community;
- to uphold and promote the purposes of the Constitution, and to interpret the Constitution when necessary;
- 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 Executive) are able to hold the Executive to account;
- to promote public involvement in the Council’s activities;
- to be the conscience of the Council; and
- to attend such civic and ceremonial functions as the Council and he/she determines appropriate.

5.2 ROLE AND FUNCTION OF VICE CHAIR OF COUNCIL

The Vice-Chair of Council¹, elected at the Annual Meeting of the Council, will have the following responsibilities:

- in the absence of the Lord Mayor, 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; and
- to attend such civic and ceremonial functions as the Council or the Lord Mayor determine appropriate.

¹ In accordance with the Royal Charter of 1897 the Vice-chair has the right to be “styled, entitled and called” Deputy Lord Mayor, however this title has not been used since May 2011.