

Article 5 – Chairing The Council

TITLE OF THE PERSON CHAIRING THE COUNCIL MEETINGS

In Elected Mayor forms of Constitution, only the Elected Mayor and their chosen Deputy can use the titles of Mayor and Deputy Mayor. The titles of Mayor and Deputy Mayor in District Councils with Borough status and London Borough Councils will therefore change to Chairman and Vice-Chairman where there is an Elected Mayor.

In a very few cases the title of Mayor or Lord Mayor comes from a Royal Charter or ancient custom and practice. These titles will not change, but if the Elected Mayor does not hold the Charter title then some way must be found of showing the difference between the two posts. Poole has the right under Charters to appoint a Mayor and Sheriff and this Constitution reflects this right.

5.01 Role and function of the Mayor

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

CHAIRING THE COUNCIL MEETING

The Mayor will be the person presiding over Council meetings. The Council meeting has a new and distinctive role to play under Executive arrangements and the Mayor's role in presiding over that body should reflect this.

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor will be elected by the Council annually. The Mayor and in his or her absence the Deputy Mayor will have the following responsibilities:

1. To uphold and promote the purposes of the Constitution, and to interpret the Constitution when necessary;
2. to be the Civic Head of the Borough of Poole and assist at all times in an inclusive non partisan manner and further community identity and pride;
3. 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;
4. 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;
5. to promote public involvement in the Council's activities and act as an ambassador for the Council;
6. to be the conscience of the Council;

7. to attend such civic and ceremonial functions as the Council and he/she determines appropriate; and
8. To agree urgent action in the absence of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of a relevant Scrutiny Committee.