

Article 5 – The Mayor of the Council

5.01 Role and Function of the Mayor

The Mayor and the Deputy Mayor will be elected annually by the Council. The Mayor and in their absence, the Deputy Mayor, will have the civic and ceremonial roles and functions set out in the following paragraphs.

5.02 Chairing Meetings of Full Council

The 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 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;
3. to ensure the efficient dispatch of business in accordance with Standing Orders;
4. 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;
5. to ensure the thorough conduct of scrutiny, when undertaken by the Council in accordance with the procedure rules set out in Part 4 of the Constitution;
6. to promote public involvement in the Council's activities;
7. to be the conscience of the Council.

5.03 First Citizen

The Mayor shall be the first citizen of the Borough of Sandwell, representing and promoting the Council as a whole, in all civic and ceremonial matters and acting as a focal point for the community. As such, the status of the Mayor during their year of office, shall be non-political.

5.04 Ceremonial Role

The Mayor will undertake many of the ceremonial functions of the Council, acting as an ambassador and figurehead. The role of the Mayor is a symbol of the authority, a symbol of an open society and an expression of social cohesion.

5.05 Promotion of the Council

The Mayor will, together with the Executive and other members of the Council, promote the Borough of Sandwell and act as a focal point for the community.

The Mayor will attend such civic and ceremonial functions as the Council and they determine appropriate.