



## **Section F**

# **CIVIC ROLE OF THE MAYOR**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The following is a summary of information on the role of the Mayor. In this context it should be stressed that the Mayoral role is civic and not executive while recognising that the Mayor is, *ex-officio*, Chairman of the Council, with the responsibilities of that office. Specific responsibilities in respect of chairing of the Council are set out in Article 5 and Part 4 of this Constitution.

#### **1. Chains of Office**

The Chain of Office is worn for civic functions when the Mayor is the host and for other functions at the Mayor's discretion. Whenever the Chain is worn, the Mayor's Attendant remains on the same premises to safeguard this irreplaceable and historic symbol of office. The Robe is worn on those occasions when the Mace precedes the Mayor, i.e. on "In State" occasions.

#### **2. Presidency and Patronage**

The Mayor is invited to become president/patron of long standing organisations during their term of office.

#### **3. Invitations**

The Mayor is invited to attend an average of 400 engagements in a year. Regular events include Wimbledon and Eastbourne Tennis Week in June, the Annual Receptions/Dinners of other local authorities, Annual General Meetings of various bodies, conferences and community events.

#### **4. The Mayoress/Mayor's Consort**

The Mayor may choose a Mayoress/Consort for the year. This is normally the Mayor's wife or husband but can be any person over the age of 18. The nomination is then approved by Council and may not normally be changed during the term of office.

#### **5. The Deputy Mayor**

The Deputy Mayor supports the Mayor during the year and can be asked to represent the Mayor on the occasions when the Mayor wishes to support an event but is unable to due to a prior engagement. The protocol guiding the Mayor also guides the Deputy Mayor.

#### **6. The Poor Fund**

The Poor Fund is a Registered Charity which operates under the terms of a Trust. Its objectives are expressed as, "to the relief of persons in the Borough of Eastbourne temporarily in need of financial assistance by reason of poverty, unemployment, illness or such like causes as the Mayor or Town Clerk or their successors in office in their absolute discretion may determine". Grants are only available to individuals for the relief of poverty and they must be residents of Eastbourne.

#### **7. The Mayor's Charity**

The Mayor nominates a Registered Charity every year and 'adopts' it for his/her term. The Mayor will establish a Charity Fund Raising Committee to organize fund raising activities.

#### **8. The Lord Lieutenant**

The Lord Lieutenant is the Sovereign's representative within the County of East Sussex and takes precedence over the Mayor at functions

#### **9. The High Sheriff**

The High Sheriff is the Sovereign's representative in the County for all matters relating to the Judiciary and the maintenance of law and order.

The High Sheriff takes precedence in the County immediately after the Lord Lieutenant except when precedence is deferred to the Mayor when he/she is attending an event within the Borough.

#### **11. Attendance at Political Events**

A Mayor is traditionally neutral and steps back from politics for the term of office therefore it is not usual for a Mayor to attend any public party-political event.

It must be recognised, however, that the Mayor remains an elected Councillor with a political affiliation.

#### **12. Returning Officer – Elections**

The Mayor is the Returning Officer for the Parliamentary Elections. The Chief Executive as 'Acting Returning Officer' exercises all functions of a Parliamentary election, with the possible exceptions of receipt of the writ and declaration of result.