

Article 5 - Chairing the Council

5.1 Title of the person chairing Council meetings

At a Meeting of the Ards and North Down Borough Council, the Mayor of the Ards and North Down Borough Council, if present, shall preside.

If the Mayor of Ards and North Down Borough Council is absent from a meeting of the Council, the Deputy Mayor of the Ards and North Down Borough Council, if present, shall preside.

If both the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor of the Ards and North Down Borough Council are absent from a meeting of Ards and North Down Borough Council, the members present shall nominate a member to preside.

If discussion arises on the allocation of the position of Chairperson, the Chief Executive shall exercise the powers of the Presiding Chairperson to assist in the regulation of that discussion.

Any power of the Presiding Councillor in relation to the conduct of a meeting may be exercised by the person presiding at the meeting.

5.2 Role and function of the Mayor

The Mayor of the Ards and North Down Borough Council and, in their absence, the Deputy Mayor will have the following roles and functions:

Ceremonial role

To represent the Council at civic and ceremonial functions and to be an ambassador for the Council.

Chairing the Council meeting

(a) The Mayor will be the person presiding over Council meetings.

The Mayor will have the following responsibilities:

- Those identified in the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 ;
- Those identified in the Local Government Code of Conduct for Councillors (LG 27/2014), (Part 4) and
- To ensure decisions are taken legally, reasonably and fairly and in accordance with the Council's standing orders and policy.
- To uphold and promote the purposes of the constitution
- To preside over meetings of the Council so that its business can be carried out effectively and with regard to the rights of councillors and the interests of the community.

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- 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 are able to hold each other to account.
- To promote public involvement in the Council activities
- To be the conscience of the council
- To attend such civic and ceremonial functions as the Council and Mayor determines appropriate.