

## **Role and Function of the Mayor (Chairman of the Council)**

### **1. The role and functions of the Mayor.**

- 1.1 Like most local council's Barnsley has a Mayor. The office of Mayor in Britain's towns and cities is an ancient one, dating back to the middle ages. On formal occasions the Mayor wears robes and a chain of office, and is accompanied by a ceremonial 'Mace'.
- 1.2 Barnsley's Mayor is the 'first citizen' or civic leader of the Borough. By this we mean that he or she represents the whole of our community. The Mayor is a unifying figure, who can speak on behalf of all – especially at times of great celebration or when tragedy has struck.
- 1.3 As part of their civic leadership role, the Mayor of Barnsley attends many events in the Borough. These involve different groups and people from all walks of life, including our Black and Minority Ethnic Communities.
- 1.4 But as well as being civic leader, the Mayor of Barnsley is also Chairman of the Council. This means that he or she has the following responsibilities:
  - (a) To uphold and promote the purposes of the constitution.
  - (b) To preside over meetings of the Council, so that its business can be carried out efficiently and with regard to the rights of the Councillors and the interests of the community.
  - (c) 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; and
  - (d) To promote public involvement in the Council's activities.
- 1.5 The Mayor is elected annually at the Annual Council meeting in May, along with the Deputy Mayor (who is usually the outgoing Mayor) and the 'Mayor Elect' (who will usually serve the year after.)