

ITEM 12 ELECTION OF DEPUTY LORD MAYOR

Council may elect a Deputy Lord Mayor who would assume all the duties and powers of the Lord Mayor in their absence. The *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* outlines the process for electing a Deputy Lord Mayor which is outlined in this report.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1 Council elect a Deputy Lord Mayor for a term determined by the Council.
- 2 Council determine whether the method of election for the Deputy Lord Mayor is by open voting, ordinary ballot or preferential ballot.
- 3 Council proceed to conduct the election of Deputy Lord Mayor in accordance with the determined method and the requirements of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*.

REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Report of: Todd Hopwood, Manager Customer + Business Integrity
 Authorised by: Renee Campbell, Director Corporate Services - Connected + Engaged City

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report

ACRONYMS USED IN REPORT

Abbreviation	Meaning
Act	Local Government Act 1993
Regulation	Local Government (General) Regulation 2021

BACKGROUND

The Deputy Lord Mayor assumes all the duties and powers of the Lord Mayor at the request of the Lord Mayor, or if the Lord Mayor is prevented by illness, absence or otherwise from exercising the function or if there is a casual vacancy in the Office of Lord Mayor.

Section 231 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act) provides for Councillors to elect a person from among their number to be the Deputy Lord Mayor. The person may be elected for a maximum period that is equal to the term of the Lord Mayor, or a shorter term as resolved by Council. Council is not required to have a Deputy Lord Mayor.

Clause 394 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* (the Regulation) stipulates that ‘if a Mayor or Deputy Mayor is to be elected by the Councillors of an area, the election is to be in accordance with Schedule 7’ of the Regulation.

On 14 October 2024, Cr Linda Campbell was elected Deputy Lord Mayor for a one-year term up to October 2025. As the election was for a one-year term, an election is now required to appoint a Deputy Lord Mayor for a period determined by Council moving forward.

PROPOSAL

The General Manager has appointed Council’s Governance and Risk Manager, Michelle Martin, to be the Returning Officer for the election of the Deputy Lord Mayor.

The process to be followed in the election of the Deputy Lord Mayor in accordance with Schedule 7 of the Regulation is as follows:

- A Councillor is to be nominated in writing by two or more Councillors, one of whom may be the nominee, and the nomination is not valid unless the nominee has indicated consent to the nomination in writing.
- The nomination is to be delivered or sent to the Returning Officer by 5pm on 27 October 2025.

- The Returning Officer is to announce the names of the nominees at the Council meeting at which the election is to be held.
- Should more than one Councillor be nominated, Council is to resolve at the meeting at which the election is to be held whether the election is to proceed by way of open voting (i.e. a show of hands) ordinary ballot or preferential ballot.
- Ordinary or preferential ballots are secret ballots, and all Councillors will need to be in physical attendance in the meeting if the election is to be held by way of an ordinary or preferential ballot.
- Open ballots can be undertaken remotely where a council is conducting its meetings by audio visual link, or if an individual Councillor/s is attending via audio visual link.
- Counting will be conducted in accordance with Parts 2 or 3 of Schedule 7, depending on the method adopted by Council.

The term of the Deputy Lord Mayor will need to be determined by Council and can be for a period of one year, two years, or the remainder of the term of Council.

Elections for the role of Deputy Lord Mayor will generally be held during the month of September. However, on occasion this may vary if the adopted meeting dates of Council do not accommodate such timings. As such Council has the following options in determining the Deputy Mayor term from October 2025 onwards:

- Initial term of one or two years, for the period up to September of the relevant year, which will result in additional term(s) to be filled by future elections; i.e. for the period up to September 2026, or the period up to September 2027, or
- For the remainder of the Council term, i.e. for the period up to September 2028.

CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the *Local Government Act 1993* and the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*. Councillors separately received notification of this election together with a nomination form prior to the meeting occurring.

CONCLUSION

Council may elect a Deputy Lord Mayor to exercise the functions of the Lord Mayor at the request of the Lord Mayor, or if the Lord Mayor is prevented by illness, absence or otherwise from exercising the function, or if there is a casual vacancy in the Office of Lord Mayor.