

## Frequently asked questions

- Is there a difference between a Mayor and a Lord Mayor?
  - *Cities have a Lord Mayor; Councils like the Vale of Glamorgan have a Mayor.*
- What is the difference between a Mayoress and a Consort?
  - *The Mayor and Deputy Mayor appoint their companions. Either a spouse, partner, son, daughter or friend is chosen. If the companions are wives they are referred to as the Mayoress or Deputy Mayoress.*

*If husband, brother or sister is chosen they are called Consort or Deputy Consort.*

- How busy is the Mayor?
  - *The Mayor's workload can vary from year to year depending on what's taking place in the Vale of Glamorgan during the Mayor's term. In recent years Mayors have regularly undertaken in excess of 550 engagements a year. "Engagements" include meetings, chairing full council, charity committee meetings, charity events, exhibition openings etc*
- How is a Mayor chosen?
  - *A Mayor is always a member of the council, usually with long service, who is invited to stand by colleagues from their political party, and has usually been Deputy Mayor the previous year.*

*The vote for a new Mayor is taken at the Annual General Meeting of Council, which is traditionally held in May.*

*When there is a clear majority in the Council the candidate can expect to be elected unopposed. However, if there is a hung Council there can be more than one candidate for the posts of Mayor and Deputy Mayor and the election result can be very close.*

- Can a Mayor be in office more than once?
  - *Yes, although they cannot hold the title 'Mayor' for more than one year in office.*

- Does the Mayor run the council?
  - *The Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan Council is a non-political and non-executive role. The Vale of Glamorgan Council is headed by the Leader of the Council and their Cabinet, with scrutiny committees monitoring Cabinet decisions closely.*

*The Mayor chairs Council meetings and ensures that each agenda item is debated fairly.*

*At full council it is unusual for the Mayor to speak on an issue as they need to be impartial. However if necessary they hold the casting vote on issues.*

- Does the Mayor earn a lot of money?
  - *All councillors receive a basic allowance, but the Mayor receives an additional special allowance set by Council to enable the Mayor/Deputy Mayor to carry out their additional duties.*
- When does the Mayor wear the chain of office?
  - *The Mayor always wears the chain of office when on official business, unless specifically requested not to.*

*The Deputy Mayor wears their chain when representing the Mayor.*