

Appointment of the Deputy Lord Mayor

Tuesday, 23 September 2025
Council

Strategic Alignment - Our Corporation

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Public

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to enable Council to appoint a Council Member to the position of Deputy Lord Mayor position until the conclusion of the Council term in November 2026.

Section 20 (4) of the *City of Adelaide Act 1998* states 'The Council may resolve to have a Deputy Lord Mayor in accordance with the provisions of the *Local Government Act 1999* (SA)'.

It is the practice of the City of Adelaide to elect a Deputy Lord Mayor to assist the Lord Mayor and the Council in the performance of their duties.

At its meeting held on 13 May 2025, Council appointed Councillor Martin to the position of Deputy Lord Mayor until the first Council Meeting attended by the newly sworn in Central Ward Council Members

At its meeting held on 9 September, Council approved extending the appointment of Councillor Martin to the position of Deputy Lord Mayor for the period from 10 September 2025 until 23 September 2025.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT COUNCIL

1. Notes that Council has resolved to create the position of Deputy Lord Mayor for the Council term, until November 2026.
2. Notes that the term of office for the Deputy Lord Mayor will be from 24 September 2025 until the conclusion of the Council term in November 2026.
3. Notes that the method of appointing a Deputy Lord Mayor will be undertaken in accordance with the Code of Practice for Council Meeting Procedures as follows:
 - 3.1. The Presiding Member of the Meeting will call for nominations, which must be accepted or declined by the Council Member who is subject of the nomination.
 - 3.2. The Chief Executive Officer as Returning Officer is authorised to declare the successful candidate appointed to the office of Deputy Lord Mayor.
 - 3.3. In the event of only one nomination to the office, the candidate is appointed to the office of Deputy Lord Mayor, announced by the Returning Officer.
 - 3.4. In the event of there being more nominations than required, an election by voting ballot of Council Members present will be undertaken.
 - 3.5. If the votes for two or more candidates for the office are equal, lots must be drawn to determine which candidate or candidates will be excluded.
 - 3.6. Upon completion of the ballot process, the successful candidate is announced by the Returning Officer as appointed to the office of Deputy Lord Mayor.

IMPLICATIONS AND FINANCIALS

City of Adelaide 2024-2028 Strategic Plan	Strategic Alignment – Our Corporation Appointment of a Deputy Lord Mayor enhances Council's ability to continually improve our governance and maximise community benefit.
Policy	Code of Practice for Council Meeting Procedures
Consultation	Not as a result of this report
Resource	Administrative support is provided by the Council Liaison and Administration Support Officer
Risk / Legal / Legislative	The <i>City of Adelaide Act 1998</i> and the <i>Local Government Act 1999</i> (SA) contain the provisions utilised by Council to resolve to create the position of Deputy Lord Mayor. As per section 51(8) of the <i>Local Government Act 1999</i> (SA) – 'If a person is to be chosen by the members of the council to fill an office under this section and the votes for two or more candidates for the office are equal, lots must be drawn to determine which candidate or candidates will be excluded'.
Opportunities	Not as a result of this report
25/26 Budget Allocation	The position of Deputy Lord Mayor receives an annual allowance of \$47,035.50.
Proposed 26/27 Budget Allocation	Periodic adjustments to the annual allowances as determined by the Remuneration Tribunal SA are expected in November 2025.
Life of Project, Service, Initiative or (Expectancy of) Asset	Not as a result of this report
25/26 Budget Reconsideration (if applicable)	Not as a result of this report
Ongoing Costs (eg maintenance cost)	Not as a result of this report
Other Funding Sources	Not as a result of this report

DISCUSSION

1. At its meeting of 12 November 2024 Council resolved in part:

'THAT COUNCIL

1. Notes that Council has resolved to create the position of Deputy Lord Mayor for the 2022-2026 Council Term.
2. Appoints Councillor Elliott to the position of Deputy Lord Mayor for the period commencing 13 January 2025 and concluding on 31 December 2025.'
2. On 11 April 2025, in the matter of Alexander Hyde v Electoral Commissioner of South Australia, Jing Li, the Court of Disputed Returns made orders resulting in the serving Deputy Lord Mayor being removed from the office of Councillor of the Central Ward of the City of Adelaide.
3. At its meeting held on 13 May 2025, Council appointed Councillor Martin to the position of Deputy Lord Mayor until the first Council Meeting attended by the newly sworn in Central Ward Council Members.
4. At its meeting held on 9 September 2025, Council approved extending the appointment of Councillor Martin to the position of Deputy Lord Mayor for the period from 10 September 2025 until 23 September 2025.
5. This report seeks to appoint a Council Member to the position of Deputy Lord Mayor until the end of the Council term in November 2026.

Role and responsibilities

6. It is the practice of Council to appoint a Deputy Lord Mayor to assist the Lord Mayor and the Council in the performance of their duties.
7. The role of the Deputy Lord Mayor is to:
 - 7.1. Represent the Lord Mayor if the Lord Mayor is unavailable to attend official duties from time to time, where appropriate, and subject to the availability of the Deputy Lord Mayor.
 - 7.2. Act in the role of Lord Mayor as Acting Lord Mayor when the Lord Mayor:
 - 7.2.1. has taken official leave of absence from Council;
 - 7.2.2. formally delegates in writing his or her responsibilities to the Deputy Lord Mayor;
 - 7.2.3. is overseas or interstate for an extended period of time; and
 - 7.2.4. is unable to discharge his or her duties due to illness or for any other reasons, subject to Council approval.
 - 7.3. Be the spokesperson of Council in the absence or unavailability of the Lord Mayor.
 - 7.4. Discuss the progress of Council decisions with the Chief Executive Officer to support the implementation of these decisions, in the absence or unavailability of the Lord Mayor.
 - 7.5. Preside at ordinary and special meetings of Council in the absence of the Lord Mayor; and exercise any other functions as Council may determine from time to time.
 - 7.6. The Council Member who holds the office of Deputy Lord Mayor shall be known and addressed as Deputy Lord Mayor at all times.
 - 7.7. Council may appoint an Acting Deputy Lord Mayor with respect to any extended period of absence of the Lord Mayor, when the Deputy Lord Mayor is Acting Lord Mayor.
8. The civic activities of a Council are an important part of community leadership and the development of community identity. While the term of a Councillor to the position of Deputy Lord Mayor has typically been for a period of 12 months, due to the timing of the next Council election, it is recommended that the Councillor be appointed to the position until the end of the current Council term
9. During the first year of the 2022-2026 Council term, the position of the Deputy Lord Mayor was undertaken by Councillor Martin – 29 November 2022 to 30 November 2023. Following a Council decision on 28 November 2023, Councillor Martin's appointment to Deputy Lord Mayor was extended until 31 December 2023.
10. Between 1 January 2024 and 12 January 2025, the position of Deputy Lord Mayor was undertaken by Councillor Snape.
11. Both Councillors Martin and Snape are eligible to be nominated again for the position of Deputy Lord Mayor.

Allowances

12. The current Council Member allowances are:
 - 12.1. Councillors - \$31,357 per annum
 - 12.2. Deputy Lord Mayor - \$47,035.50 per annum (1.5 times the annual allowance for Councillors of the City of Adelaide).
13. The level of allowance for the Deputy Lord Mayor recognises the additional role and function of this position and the role it plays in supporting the Lord Mayor and acting in the position when the Lord Mayor is on leave.

Process for nomination and appointment

14. In accordance with section 51 (8) of the Local Government Act 1999 (SA) and the Code of Practice for Council Meeting Procedures (Ballot Process):
 - 14.1. The Presiding Member of the Meeting will call for nominations, which must be accepted or declined by the Council Member who is subject of the nomination.
 - 14.2. The Chief Executive Officer as Returning Officer is authorised to declare the successful candidate appointed to the office of Deputy Lord Mayor.
 - 14.3. In the event of only one nomination to the office, the candidate is appointed to the office of Deputy Lord Mayor, announced by the Returning Officer.
 - 14.4. In the event of there being more nominations than required, an election by voting ballot of Council Members present will be undertaken.
 - 14.5. If the votes for two or more candidates for the office are equal, lots must be drawn to determine which candidate or candidates will be excluded.
 - 14.6. Upon completion of the ballot process, the successful candidate is announced by the Returning Officer as appointed to the office of Deputy Lord Mayor.
15. This report seeks Council to appoint a Council Member to the position of Deputy Lord Mayor from 24 September 2025 until the end of the Council term in November 2026.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

- END OF REPORT -