Appointment of the Deputy Lord Mayor

Tuesday, 10 November 2026
Council

Strategic Alignment - Our Corporation

Program Contact:
Rebecca Hayes, Associate Director Governance & Strategy

Public

Approving Officer:
Michael Sedgman, Chief Executive Officer

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 April 2027.

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 23 September 2025, Council appointed Councillor Noon to the position of Deputy Lord Mayor from 1 January 2026 until the conclusion of the council term in November 2026.

At its meeting on 13 October 2026, Council noted that, pursuant to the *Local Government (Elections) (Periodic Elections) Amendment Act 2026* (SA), existing appointments to Council offices are not affected by the deferral of periodic elections from 2026 to 2027. Council also noted advice from the Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Noon, of her intention to conclude her service in that office on 31 December 2026 and resolved to seek a report on the appointment of a Council Member to the office of Deputy Lord Mayor for the remainder of the Council term.

Following Council's resolution, the *Local Government (Elections) (2027 Periodic Elections) Amendment Regulations 2026* (SA) (the Amendment Regulations) came into operation on 22 October 2026. The Amendment Regulations provide that a Deputy Mayor holding office immediately before the commencement of the Amendment Regulations continues to hold that office until the conclusion of the 2027 periodic elections, subject to the provisions of the *Local Government Act 1999* (SA). Notwithstanding this subsequent legislative amendment, Council's resolution remains operative and this report has been prepared to enable Council to consider whether to appoint a Council Member to the office of Deputy Lord Mayor for the remainder of the Council term.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT COUNCIL

1. Notes the provisions of the *Local Government (Elections) (2027 Periodic Elections) Amendment Regulations 2026* (SA) as they relate to the appointment of the Deputy Lord Mayor.
2. Resolves, notwithstanding the provisions of the *Local Government (Elections) (2027 Periodic Elections) Amendment Regulations 2026* (SA), to appoint a Council Member to the office of Deputy Lord Mayor for the remainder of the Council term, with the appointee to be a Council Member who is not occupying that office immediately prior to the commencement date specified in part 3 of the recommendation.
3. Resolves that the term of office for the Deputy Lord Mayor will be from 11 November 2026 until the conclusion of the Council term in April 2027.
4. Resolves 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:

4.1. The Presiding Member of the Meeting will call for nominations, which must be accepted or declined by the Council Member who is the subject of the nomination.

4.2. The Chief Executive Officer as Returning Officer is authorised to declare the successful candidate appointed to the office of Deputy Lord Mayor.

4.3. 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.

4.4. In the event of there being more nominations than required, an election by voting ballot of Council Members present will be undertaken.

4.5. 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.

4.6. 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 *City of Adelaide Act 1998* and the *Local Government Act 1999* (SA) contain the provisions utilised by Council to resolve to create the position of Deputy Lord Mayor.
Opportunities	Not as a result of this report
26/27 Budget Allocation	The position of Deputy Lord Mayor receives an annual allowance of $48,165.00 (note: this is subject to a further CPI increase pursuant to Regulation 21 of the *Local Government (Elections) (2027 Periodic Elections) Amendment Regulations 2026*.)
Proposed 27/28 Budget Allocation	Approximately $16,055 (additional amount above Council Member allowance) – to be adjusted in accordance with section 76(9) of the *Local Government Act 1999* (SA).
Life of Project, Service, Initiative or (Expectancy of) Asset	Not as a result of this report
26/27 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 on 13 October 2026, Council resolved as follows:

   THAT COUNCIL

   1. *Notes that the appointment of a council member to fill an office of a council is not affected by the holding of periodic elections in 2027 instead of 2026 in accordance with the Local Government (Elections) (Periodic Elections) Amendment Act 2026 (SA).*

   2. *Notes the list of current appointments is contained in Attachment A to Item 16.5 on the Agenda for the meeting of the Council held on 13 October 2026.*

   3. *Notes the letter from the Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Noon, dated 11 October 2026, advising of her intention to conclude her service as Deputy Lord Mayor on 31 December 2026.*

   4. *Requests Administration to bring a report to the meeting of Council on 10 November 2026 for Council to consider the appointment of a Council Member to the position of Deputy Lord Mayor, with the appointment to take effect from 12 November 2026 and continue for the remainder of the Council term, and in doing so to follow the process at paragraph 17.1 of Item 16.5 on the Agenda for the meeting of Council held on 13 October 2026, including:*

      4.1. *formally notifying the Deputy Lord Mayor of the proposed change by Wednesday 14 October 2026; and*

      4.2. *inviting the Deputy Lord Mayor to provide written feedback by 5.00 pm on Wednesday 21 October 2026, to be presented to Council with that report.*

2. The written submission provided by the Deputy Lord Mayor in response to Council's resolution of 13 October 2026 is included as **Attachment A**.

3. On 22 October 2026 the *Local Government (Elections) (2027 Periodic Elections) Amendment Regulations 2026* (the **Amendment Regulations**) were made.

4. The Amendment Regulations support the transition to the 2027 local government periodic elections, following deferral of the 2026 elections.

5. Of relevance to the appointment of the Deputy Lord Mayor is Regulation 22 of the Amendment Regulations, that provides as follows:

   '22 – Terms of certain offices

   (1) Despite section 51(4) of the *Local Government Act 1999*, a deputy mayor of a council holding that office immediately before the commencement of this regulation continues, subject to the provisions of the Act and the *Local Government Act 1999*, to hold that office until the conclusion of the 2027 periodic elections.'

6. Notwithstanding the provisions contained within the Amendment Regulations, Council may choose to appoint an alternate Council Member to the position of Deputy Lord Mayor until the end of the Council term in April 2027.

7. Council's decision of 13 October 2026 initiated the process to consider appointing a new Deputy Lord Mayor from 12 November 2026. This proposed commencement date differs from the current Deputy Lord Mayor's letter of 11 October 2026, which advised of their intention to conclude their service on 31 December 2026. In considering the appointment, Council should therefore determine the commencement date for a successor, having regard to both its decision and the Deputy Lord Mayor's stated intention.

8. Consistent with its previous resolution to have a Deputy Lord Mayor for the Council term, Council should appoint a successor to serve from the conclusion of the current Deputy Lord Mayor's term, or such other date as determined by Council, until the end of the Council term, being the conclusion of the periodic elections occurring in April 2027.

Role and responsibilities

9. At its meeting on 23 September 2025 Council resolved in part:

   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 terms of office for the Deputy Lord Mayor will be from 24 September 2025 until 31 December 2025, and from 1 January until the conclusion of the Council term in November 2026.*

10. At its meeting held on 23 September 2025, Council appointed Councillor Noon to the position of Deputy Lord Mayor from 1 January 2026 to the conclusion of the council term in November 2026.

11. 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.

12. The role of the Deputy Lord Mayor is to:

    12.1. 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.

    12.2. Act in the role of Lord Mayor as Acting Lord Mayor when the Lord Mayor:

        12.2.1. has taken official leave of absence from Council;

        12.2.2. formally delegates in writing his or her responsibilities to the Deputy Lord Mayor;

        12.2.3. is overseas or interstate for an extended period of time; and

        12.2.4. is unable to discharge his or her duties due to illness or for any other reasons, subject to Council approval.

    12.3. Be the spokesperson of Council in the absence or unavailability of the Lord Mayor.

    12.4. 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.

    12.5. 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.

    12.6. The Council Member who holds the office of Deputy Lord Mayor shall be known and addressed as Deputy Lord Mayor at all times.

    12.7. 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.

13. 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.

14. 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.

15. Between 1 January 2024 and 12 January 2025, the position of Deputy Lord Mayor was undertaken by Councillor Snape.

16. Between 13 January 2025 and 11 April 2025, the position of Deputy Lord Mayor was undertaken by Councillor Elliott.

17. The Deputy Lord Mayor position remained vacant between 12 April 2025 and 13 May 2025.

18. Between 14 May 2025 and 9 September 2025, the position of Deputy Lord Mayor was undertaken by Councillor Martin. Following a Council decision on 9 September 2025, Councillor Martin's appointment to Deputy Lord Mayor was extended until 23 September 2025.

19. At the meeting of Council on 23 September 2025, the position of Deputy Lord Mayor was appointed to Councillor Noon until the conclusion of the Council term, November 2026.

20. Councillors Martin and Snape are eligible to be nominated again for the position of Deputy Lord Mayor.

Allowances

21. The current Council Member allowances are:

    21.1. Councillors - $32,110.00 per annum

    21.2. Deputy Lord Mayor - $48,165.00 per annum (1.5 times the annual allowance for Councillors of the City of Adelaide).

22. 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.

23. Subject to Regulation 21 of the Amendment Regulations, the allowances determined under section 76 of the *Local Government Act 1999* (SA), including that of the Deputy Lord Mayor, will be adjusted on the fourth anniversary of the relevant periodic elections to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index.

24. The Local Government Association of South Australia is presently finalising the CPI increase and will be advising councils in due course.

Process for nomination and appointment

25. In accordance with section 51 (8) of the *Local Government Act 1999* (SA) and the Code of Practice for Council Meeting Procedures (Ballot Process):

    25.1. The Presiding Member of the Meeting will call for nominations, which must be accepted or declined by the Council Member who is the subject of the nomination.

    25.2. The Chief Executive Officer as Returning Officer is authorised to declare the successful candidate appointed to the office of Deputy Lord Mayor.

    25.3. 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.

    25.4. In the event of there being more nominations than required, an election by voting ballot of Council Members present will be undertaken.

    25.5. 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.

    25.6. Upon completion of the ballot process, the successful candidate is announced by the Returning Officer as appointed to the office of Deputy Lord Mayor.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A – submission from the Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Noon

- END OF REPORT -