

**CITY COUNCIL
TUESDAY 12th JUNE 2012**

Executive Commentary

The Future of the Civic Function

Report of the former Co-ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Committee

I would like to thank everyone for all their hard work in undertaking this timely review of the future of the civic function in Birmingham. Although this review was prompted by the Localism Act 2011 and the subsequent referendum for a Directly Elected Mayor, it is an important review in its own right and an opportunity to reinforce our commitment to a strong Lord Mayor and Civic function for the City.

As Deputy Leader, with responsibility for the Lord Mayors Office, I am pleased that so early on in my role I have the opportunity to reaffirm the Labour led Council's commitment to strengthening the future of the Civic Function and the role of the Lord Mayor. I support the recommendations made in this review, most notably the first recommendation that the Council reiterates its support for a strong Lord Mayor. I confirm my full support for the role of our First Citizen and will ensure that these recommendations are acted upon.

Outside of this review, I am firmly committed to a much needed overhaul of the City Council Website as a whole and will ensure that this takes place as a priority. It is important that a leading Local Authority like Birmingham presents a professional, user friendly and welcoming image at the first point of contact, which in the 21st Century is more and more often the website. I will ensure that the consideration for a free standing website for the Lord Mayor is firmly embedded in this review.

Councillor Ian Ward

Deputy Leader
Birmingham City Council