

DETAILED RESPONSES

APPENDIX B

The text of comments received has not been edited except for personal comments which have been removed.

| <u>Responses received by email</u> | | |
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| Location | PREFERENCE | COMMENTS |
| City | Leader and Cabinet | My preference is for the system of leader of the council and cabinet, not elected mayor. |
| City | Not specified | Yes, I do have a view on how the Council should be constituted, which I would be prepared to tell you in a referendum. This consultation is shockingly short, and consequently the process is completely undemocratic, designed to ensure that the party with the built in majority in the city (the party I support, in fact) maintains a grip on power. I hope you lose. |
| Postcode not given | Not specified | I do not usually take part or comment on these types of debate, but in this instance I feel I need to in that the Online Survey is biased by the fact it does not cover all the appropriate questions that should be being asked. Therefore, due diligence is not being carried out properly on this important topic and it would appear party politics are being played out at it's worse with the possibility of personal vested interested being at the forefront, also the timescale for responses can be considered to tight in order to get a full response from the people of Leicester as to their wishes. |
| Full postcode not given | Elected Mayor | Hi - Mayor every time. LE2. |
| City | Not specified | I'm dismayed at the way the council appear to be bulldozing this important decision through without the referendum the government promised us. I have yet to form a strong opinion either way on the matter of elected mayors but my opinion |

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| | | <p>(and indeed this consultation) are irrelevant if it's all been decided in advance.</p> <p>Only by holding a referendum will you get the proper public debate required to legitimise a decision on this. Yes this will cost more money but so would an elected mayor.</p> <p>The city council cannot say they are introducing elected mayors to improve democratic accountability if they deny people the democratic right to decide on them in the first place.</p> |
| Postcode not given | Leader and Cabinet | I would prefer a leader |
| Postcode not given | Mayor and Cabinet | I vote for mayor |
| Full postcode not given | Mayor and Cabinet | Elected by public a Mayor |
| Postcode not given | Leader and Cabinet | <p>No major decisions should be rushed like this</p> <p>There should be no elected Mayor, we have had leaders in the past or have been reined in by their parties, some leaders when acting like a president have made bad decisions, and not been checked.</p> <p>There will be no accountability if we put all the power with one individual.</p> <p>my Vote goes with staying with a leader</p> |
| Postcode not given | Not specified | <p>I have given my suggestion on the website, however I can input my opinion and post code, over and over. The consultation can be ridged very easily. I studded qualitative and quantative data at university so I have some knowledge on how these results can be fixed. The security needs to be updated, if you do not ask the person for their name and address, anyone can but in their opinion a thousand times over, and entering any city post code. The council need to change this straight away, other wise they would be open to criticism and the information collected can easily be incorrect.</p> |
| Postcode not | Not specified | I would like to see the current system stay in place. I think it is an honour and reward for length |

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| given | | of service as a councillor to be given the position of mayor. I would not like to see embarrassing things like what happened in Hartlepool to happen in this great city. (A Monkey / Football Mascot) elected as mayor. If it's not broken, don't fix it! |
| Postcode not given | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | Directly elected Mayor & cabinet. |
| Postcode not given | Not specified | To be honest I prefer the system we have now as I feel that: A) four years is too long to be in office B) The idea of appointing a cabinet based on an individuals preference does not seem as democratic as councillors voting for a cabinet C) I'm not sure what the function of the Mayor would be under the elected Mayor and Cabinet model as they can not be a Councillor |
| Postcode not given | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | As a long standing resident of Leicester, I strongly believe that Leicester should have an Elected Mayor as this model is proven to be representative of the whole community. |
| Postcode not given | Leader and Cabinet | COUNCIL LEADER PLEASE! (personal comment removed) |
| City | Not specified | As my forebears have lived in Leicester since at least the 1700's I feel strongly that the Honorary role of Lord Mayor should be kept. I have attended celebrations of many kinds where the Lord mayor has officiated and represented the City of Leicester and seen the pride in the eyes of Children in school and with 'Looked after Young People'. I have met many Lord mayors over the years and feel only positive about their interactions on behalf of the City. The history and culture of Leicester has diminished over the years because of various reasons such as demolition and social change. I feel that this title should remain but maybe more care should be given to the nomination and election of a Lord mayor. The nomination should be on merit and not rotation of parties. |

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| | | <p>It may be a possibility that the Lord Mayor comes from the community not necessarily a Councillor, someone that has done a lot for the City or people that live in the City ,to be elected by the people for this HONORARY ,UNPAID POSITION.</p> <p>A Son of Leicester and proud of this</p> |
| City | Not specified | <p>We seem to have a cut and dried 2 option choice. However, there is no information regarding predicted costs for either option. Surely in order to make some form of judgment this is a minimum requirement otherwise how do we know what the possible impactions are on Council Tax in the future, what is likely to be the minimum requirement for support staff if an elected Mayor is decided on, how will an elected Mayor with full executive power impact on the existing top management structure of the Council i.e. will we still need a Chief Executive, if so why if the Mayor has full executive powers.</p> <p>I feel that the above is a minimum of information I require before I can make my judgement, otherwise I feel the whole consultation and possible election is cut and dried regardless and that we are just being given lip service instead of the right to determine what we feel is the right direction for the future of our city.</p> |
| Postcode not given | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | <p>I prefer an elected Mayor to remove the political affiliation out of the way.</p> <p>Kind regards and many thanks,</p> |
| Postcode not given | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | <p>Wish to support the idea of a directly elected Mayor for our dear city. This will give us the residents of the city a more say in the whole democratic structures at the highest level of the city's political system.</p> <p>Thanks</p> |
| Postcode not given | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | <p>I would prefer an elected mayor</p> |
| Postcode not | Not specified | <p>I believe that the citizens of Leicester should have been given the right to have a referendum</p> |

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| given | | <p>on this important process.</p> <p>I do not agree to an Elected Mayor i believe this was voted in with haste from the ruling Labour party with lack of judgement. I believe it will make political decision even more harder to scrutinise . I believe this has been pushed through so that a small number of the ruling labour group can feather there own nest.</p> <p>As far as the consultation is concerned just asking 2 questions is totally unacceptable. Yet another</p> <p>Fait Accompli by the ruling Labour Group.</p> |
| Postcode not given | Not specified | <p>I have received a link to the online Leader or Mayor Consultation page. Before I complete the survey, I wanted to raise a few things.</p> <p>A couple of additional FAQs would be useful for clarification. For example, you state on the web page:</p> <p>"Leicester City Council is now required by law to change how we are governed and managed"</p> <p>My understanding is that you are referring to the Decentralisation and Localism Bill, which has clearly not yet become law and as such your statement is incorrect.</p> <p>You state that the proposed elected mayor "cannot be a Councillor", which presumably means only that he or she cannot concurrently hold two political offices on Leicester Council?</p> <p>Your statement makes no reference to the possibility of a current Councillor resigning and immediately contesting the mayoralty and whether this would be permissible?</p> <p>Nor do you state whether the holding of other political offices is permissible, e.g. could a mayoral candidate also be an MP or an MEP and what would happen should this situation occur?</p> <p>Finally, your statement says that "the elected mayor....can only be removed and replaced after a referendum"</p> |

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| | | <p>Please can you publish details about the mechanism for triggering such a referendum? For example the threshold that must be reached in terms of number/% of voters or of those eligible to vote who must support any petition for a referendum to be held?</p> <p>If you are unable to provide detail, it seems to me that you are asking the electorate to sign up to something without giving them important information about how they can subsequently attempt to break the deal and attempt removal any future office holder, should they desire to do this.</p> <p>For example, if a threshold is set which impractically high, your consultation asks the electorate to support an elected mayor for Leicester (without a referendum in the first instance I notice), and the consultation says that any holder of such an office can be removed by a referendum, but in practice this may not be possible.</p> <p>I hope you can clarify some of these issues. Personally, on balance of what I currently know, I support the idea, but I do feel that more information needs to be given to allow the public and informed choice.</p> |
| Postcode not given | Not specified | If I am correct in thinking that voting or opinions can only be gathered from members of the public via email/internet, it seems to me that this is discriminatory toward people without access to the internet or those who do not have the ability to use technology. |
| City | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | I prefer an elected mayor for Leicester |
| Postcode not given | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | In summary, we generally get a mixed bag of local politicians - who then chose the "best of a relatively poor bunch" to run the city. At least with an elected mayor we can get some better candidates into the field. |
| Postcode not | Leader and | Leader |

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| given | Cabinet | |
| Postcode not given | Leader and Cabinet | Prefer Leader |
| Postcode not given | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | I believe the Directly Elected Mayor and cabinet is the best system as it gives the residents more choice in electing a mayor. |
| Postcode not given | Leader and Cabinet | Leader |
| Postcode not given | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | I would prefer an elected Mayor. |
| City | Leader and Cabinet | <p>I am e-mailing to say my preference out of the two options is a leader, not a mayor, though I would prefer the system operated several years ago.</p> <p>However my main concern is that there is no referendum on the two options. For any major change in how councils are run (or other elected bodies) should be chosen by the voters, in this case Leicester voters. If the voters then choose a Mayor I would except that decision.</p> |
| Postcode not given | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | <p>I write to make representations in support of the proposal that Leicester should have an elected mayor. I make those representations as Senior Partner of Harvey Ingram (the largest law firm in Leicester) but also as someone who has played a significant part in the development of the business and wider community in recent years, having been President of the Leicestershire Chamber of Commerce for 3 years (2003-06) and Chairman of the East Midlands Chambers of Commerce for 4 years (2005-09).</p> <p>Leicester is a large city and its leader would have a significant advantage if democratically elected. This would give the individual significant political standing and the ability to derive real power from that process.</p> <p>From the business perspective it is vital that Leicester should be seen as a place where</p> |

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| | | <p>business can work effectively and prosper and to do this experience in other parts of the country indicates that the decision making process is more cohesive and efficient where there is an elected mayor and cabinet. Some cities already have that benefit and others will shortly follow. If we do not have an elected mayor Leicester will fall behind its competitors and work and jobs will be lost.</p> <p>I applaud the courage of the present administration in promoting the solution of election - it must be the only way forward.</p> |
| Postcode not given | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | I would rather have an elected Mayor. |
| City | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | my preference is for an elected Mayor. |
| City | Neither supported | <p>My comments are as follows-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1st. the average consultation for work by the Council over the last year averages 50 days consultation. To consult for only 11 working days is unacceptable on such a major issue. 2. I strongly object that it is invading in to the Christmas season. Had this been the case for any other religious/celebration in the city it would not have been acceptable. Does Christmas mean so little in our city now. 3. The access to this consultation is limited and discriminates. If you have knowledge of IT and access to a computer it would seem you are the only ones being taken attention of now. Usually we balance things and go out to hard to reach groups, why hasn't this been done? 4. Where is the translation of this for BME communities. 5. You have made no mention of the new BILL due out which will have implications for this and you have not provided the whole picture on the website. 6. Also no reference to how legally this can be challenged for example, by a petition which has a certain number of signatures. 7. This matter has not been through the usual channels such as Council meetings/scrutiny/task group. Why not have taken it out to ward community meetings, they have nothing else to |

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| | | <p>discuss this year.</p> <p>I DO NOT SUPPORT AN ELECTED MAYOR NEITHER DO I SUPPORT AN ELECTED LEADER AS BOTH ARE UNACCOUNTABLE.</p> <p>The people of Leicester should have been asked do they want to change first before railroading this matter through in this way.</p> <p>Research has shown that of the Councils who have considered an elected mayor two thirds said NO. And the trend now is for the third that did, is to reverse matters.</p> <p>Finally, you have not been objective in your statement on the web, Had you been you would have included all the pros and cons of all the options. Particularly the costs, which should have included salaries paid to elected mayors/Leaders. Cost of possible by-elections as were an elected Member elected they would have to resign.</p> <p>Going down this route closes the door on hundreds of years of tradition as a democratic, accountable and accessible model of governance, moulded over the years. Indications are that the new BILL will include the option of going back to the committee system this should be awaited and looked at.</p> <p>I am very unhappy with this process as it stands.</p> |
| Postcode not given | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | <p>I strongly favour a directly elected executive Mayor for the City of Leicester. However, I do feel that for a significant constitutional change of this nature the people of Leicester should be consulted with an invitation to participate in a referendum, the result of which should be binding on the City Council.</p> <p>But what of the suburbs? Still considered by the councils (using boundaries last amended in 1935!) to be part of distant borough or district council areas, the suburbs are in reality view very</p> |

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| | | much part of the City of Leicester. |
| City | Not specified | We are entitled to a referendum, I certainly don't want the sort of Mayor you have in mind. |
| Postcode not given | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | To whom it may concern: I am in favour of the 'elected mayor' option. |
| City | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | I think it is appalling that the people of Leicester have not been properly consulted on this matter; a small section on a website that hardly anyone visits is by no means an effective substitute for a referendum, as we were promised. These are very dark times for democracy. My preference would be an elected mayor. |
| City | Not specified | I prefer to leave it as it is. Why change? |
| City | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | I favour an Elected Mayor. |
| City | Not specified | Thank you for your e-mail of above reference received today – addressed as “Dear Community Meeting Contact” – announcing the “Consultation Exercise” on whether or not the Citizens want an Elected Mayor. In my Opinion this exercise is a sham. Why? First, not all Citizens are “on-line” – especially a lot of the Elderly. Second, this method will not reach the majority of Citizens – at least those who care enough to bother to vote. The Labour Cabinet decided to deny the Citizens (a minority of whom who voted them into Office!) the choice of decision by Referendum. That is a classic case of ignorance of our wishes. I would remind both officers and Councillors that, many years ago, the Leicester Mercury set up |

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| | | <p>its own “referendum” on whether the then Council should purchase New Walk Centre.</p> <p>This referendum was conducted using the then Electoral Register for the City to prevent a false result. That result was an emphatic “NO!”</p> <p>We, the Voters, were proved right all along. And, as they say “up North”, “By Gum, Were we proved right!” The chickens are coming home to roost with a vengeance on that.</p> <p>As the Cabinet have flatly refused us a referendum, I have asked the Mercury to repeat the exercise. As yet, I have not heard from them – but hope that they will act.</p> <p>For the Record, please inform the Elected Members that there is only one man fit for the office of Elected Mayor of Leicester. He is Sir Peter Soulsby – whose election will give us, the Citizens, a real Leader. One who will supplant the present mass of incompetence that masquerades as a Cabinet.</p> <p><i>Further response from JB following an email from Democratic Support</i></p> <p>Many thanks for that!</p> <p>The "Link" does not reach this part of the world - and, quite frankly is not missed. It is an expendable - and expensive - "luxury" that deserves economy closure.</p> <p>The Elected Members do not enjoy the confidence of the Electorate! As so few voted last time around (see my first comment)</p> <p>A Referendum - costed at £250,00 I believe by certain Councillors is exactly the same as the latest "Lifebelt" thrown to the Phoenix Square!</p> <p>If Councillors refuse a referendum then they have no business being in Office. Why? Because they are our Servants and not Masters!</p> <p>Please inform all Elected Members</p> |
| Postcode not given | Not specified | I would like the leader to be elected bi-annually. This would allow the leader to undertake medium term plans, whilst remaining accountable to the electorate. Some politicians make promises, then once in power do not keep to them, but yet we are stuck with them for 4 years. |

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| City | Not specified | <p>THANK YOU FOR THE INVITATION.</p> <p>BEFORE REPLYING MORE INFORMATION IS NEEDED PLEASE:</p> <p>THE LORD MAYOR: REPRESENTS LEICESTER CITIZENS PUTS IN A HUGE EFFORT TO GO AND SEE LEICESTER CULTURE, ORGANISATIONS, CHARITIES. MINGLES WITH THE GOOD AND GREAT THAT ARE THE SOCIAL FABRIC OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN LEICESTER. CHAIRS THE COUNCIL MEETINGS.</p> <p>PLEASE SAY EXACTLY WHAT IS PLANNED FOR THE LORD MAYOR AND HOW A LORD MAYOR WILL FIT WITH EITHER OF THE TWO OPTIONS.</p> <p>SAY HOW THE LORD MAYOR IN FUTURE WILL BE CHOSEN. WILL IT STILL BE SHARED OUT POLITICALLY AND ON LENGTH OF SERVICE, MUTUALLY AGREED AND RESPECTED BY ALL THE COUNCILLORS?</p> <p>DO PLEASE REPLY TO THIS BY RETURN SO THAT MY OVERALL RESPONSE TO THE SUBSTANTIVE QUESTION CAN MEET YOUR UNBELIEVABLY SILLY SHORT DEADLINE.</p> |
| City | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | Elected by local council tax paying public from Leicester. |
| City | Not specified | <p>I AM AGAINST AN ELECTED MAYOR FOR LEICESTER. I WOULD RETAIN THE CURRENT SYSTEM.</p> <p>Leicester needs a referendum on this issue. This is because, an elected mayor for Leicester is</p> |

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| | | <p>not only a radical change, but introduces a completely different method of local government that is too important to leave to only councillors to decide.</p> <p>Rather than just a short 11 day consultation period, Leicester citizens need a referendum and a longer consultation so that they can decide on whether or not to have an elected mayor.</p> <p>What the Labour control City Council has not understood is people are inclined to support what they help to decide.</p> |
| Postcode not given | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | Lets have an elected mayor and hopefully they will present a position that is less biased and reflects the needs of the local people. |
| City | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | My preference is to have an elected Mayor |
| City | Leader and Cabinet | My preference is Leader and Cabinet. |
| City | Leader and Cabinet | <p>As a citizen of Leicester City I would like to state that I DO NOT WANT AN ELECTED MAYOR</p> <p>As far as I am aware the present system for electing the leader of the council works perfectly well so if it isn't broken don't mend it!</p> <p>At present if the leader of the council is not doing a good job he/she can be removed from the office by those who chose him/her, this will not be so in the case of an elected mayor and the citizens of Leicester will have to put up with a bad mayor for the full four years of office.</p> <p>I have always voted labour but if the ruling labour party proceed along the lines of an elected mayor then I shall not vote for a labour member who stands for the office.</p> |
| City | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | I'd like a directly elected mayor. |
| City | Elected Mayor | I'd like to express my preference for an elected Mayor for Leicester. |

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| | and Cabinet | It is my view that this will increase the degree of direct accountability of the top-level leadership of the Council to voters/Council Tax payers. |
| City | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | Please record my vote in favour of an elected mayor. Thank you |
| City | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | I would like to express my preference for an elected mayor |
| City | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | My preference would be for a mayor. The current council leader is largely invisible to Leicester's population, elected as he/she is by council members. Extending this appointment to four years seems to be the worst of all worlds - the city's prime powerholder would then be unelected by the city's people yet serve for four years. Though there is a worry that the direct election of a mayor would play into the hands of those who are most media savvy, I think it would engage the electorate far more and give Leicester well recognised and accountable leadership. |
| City | Leader and Cabinet | I vote for leader and cabinet, there was supposed to have been a Referendum, Why hasn't there been? Needs to be re-presented in a years time. |
| City | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | I WOULD LIKE TO SEE A MAYOR VOTED FOR BY THE PEOPLE OF LEICESTER I AM NOT IN FAVOUR OF VOTE BY THE COUNCIL ALONE |
| City | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | A Mayor elected by all the voters of the City As well as being fundamentally more democratic, the advantages of a mayoral system includes greater transparency, better accountability and more effective community leadership. Leicester will get an opportunity to bring new faces in leadership position. We support the idea of elected mayor for the city. |
| City | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | I would prefer an elected Mayor and Cabinet. Why? |

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| | | When I came here from Holland, many, many years ago I could not understand your ineffective, figurehead 'Lord' mayor. I have lived with it but much prefer an elected one. I find there is very little reference to the future of the 'Lord's role. Perhaps it needs more clarification. |
| City | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | Elected Mayor and Cabinet—Yes Leader and Cabinet—No This would then perhaps bring democracy and stability back to public control. |
| City | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | I firmly believe in having an elected mayor who would be accountable to the electorate, not a handful of party political members. |
| City | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | I would like the city council to be run by THE ELECTED MAYOR. |
| City | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | I support the move to an elected mayor |
| City | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | My absolute preference is for an elected mayor. As one of Europe's largest cities Leicester needs a new type of political leadership if it to make faster and more effective progress in economic growth and building successful communities. Most of the successful cities in the world have an executive mayor. So should Leicester. |
| City | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | I very much favour the option of an elected mayor rather than the Leader and Cabinet model As well as being fundamentally more democratic, the advantages of a mayoral system include greater transparency, better accountability and more effective community leadership. |
| Postcode not given | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | I would like an elected Mayor. I would like to see an independent Mayor. Someone who could ask those awkward questions and not be ruled by politics. We have situations previously and at present which should never have been entered into but which no one is ever responsible for. |

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| | | Curve and Phoenix cost us 80 million and are floundering. De Montfort Hall is floundering just some examples where strong leadership may have influenced a different outcome. |
| City | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | I am in favour of an elected mayor and believe it will hopefully provide a more democratic approach to decision making within the council. |
| City | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | <p>I fully support the proposal to introduce elected mayor for Leicester. Currently able to elect their Council and their Parliamentarians, but not their Mayor.</p> <p>An elected mayor system would benefit residents in three ways. It strengthens democracy through expanding accountability, it gives us the opportunity to increase devolution to Councillors and neighbourhoods and allows arguments for the scrutiny and ward-councillors roles to be properly recognised, supported and rewarded.</p> |
| City | Not specified | I prefer the current system to a directly elected mayor. I think a directly elected mayor would tend to put personalities before policies. |
| City | Leader and Cabinet | <p>I choose to have Council Leader and Cabinet, PLEASE DO NOT take the city down the road of having an elected mayor, it would be a disaster!</p> <p>Elected mayor for LCC would be a really bad mistake. First example: Mercury front page this week: "the 'Birch' wants to run for mayor. Second example: 'H Angus the monkey' Hartlepool mascot becomes mayor. BAD BAD BAD idea</p> <p>Also, please can the political parties / mercury / council NOT assume that this is a done deal, Everyone is manoeuvring towards an elected mayor even before this consultation is over.</p> <p>It is not a done deal, there WILL be opposition to it if it is seriously considered.</p> |

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| | | Thanks for listening. |
| City | Leader and Cabinet | <p>I do not want an elected Mayor (President) but a Leader chosen by the elected representatives, a "prime minister" in effect as at present. How can a single person rule if the Council is in opposition to them ? The bureaucracy of opposing factions is not want is wanted at these difficult financial times.</p> <p>Furthermore no Labour Council leader in my life time spent living in the City (65 years) - and it will be a Labour winner - has been above merely adequate, as is born out by the countless blunders undertaken during their 'leaderships'.</p> <p>The Curve !!!! De Montfort Hall !! The Phoenix !! Bow Bridge !! The proposed 'donation' by Peter Soulsby of Western Park to a group of Ech Zoo dreamers. No Art Gallery, no Museum of Modern Art.</p> <p>In short a City of modest facilities does not need an egotist to run it at a time central Government will be doing all the important things (Education, Health, Policing etc.).</p> <p>Please not more waste.</p> |
| City | Not specified | <p>I am e mailing to say that I cannot support the option of an elected Mayor for Leicester. The reason for this is because I feel strongly that it should be the people of Leicester to decide in a referendum first whether they wish to change the system in Leicester or not. It is undemocratic for the current Labour administration of the Council to decide. I feel also this consultation is flawed as it has not been widely publicised and is too short a timescale for such a significant change. Such a change requires a clear mandate from the electorate.</p> |
| Postcode not | Not specified | (Emailed three times. All comments collated here.) |

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| <p>given</p> | <p>I am opposed to the idea of an elected mayor especially one who can choose his or her own team.</p> <p>I am further opposed to this being driven through undemocratically without a referendum. The consultation is a farce and open to fraudulent behaviour.</p> <p>Stoke on Trent had an elected mayor and later decided to go back to the previous system. If anyone remains in doubt about dangers attached to domination of Leicester city council by an elected mayor with a small team of his or her own choice , one has only to look at how the process is driven by a small group denying the people of Leicester a democratic referendum.</p> <p>The public consultation is a hoot. Does anyone really expect that this will reverse a decision already made to have an elected mayor? The methods by which people are invited to respond to the consultation including via the coupon published in the Leicester Mercury and particularly by the internet are not water-tight. Councillors have gone to prison in Bradford because of electoral fraud and I recall a judge likening the UK to a banana republic as a result of postal voting fraud.</p> <p>Of course all might be above board in the next few weeks in Leicester and a paragon of virtue might be elected but clearly there is risk. I remember when I was deeply involved in the campaign to prevent John Prescott's wish to have have an elected Regional Assembly in the north east of England, the government conducted a public consultation. The result, they claimed, was in favour but when investigated, it was discovered that not only had a tiny number of the population responded but those who had dissented were included in favour of an elected Assembly. What the government had done was to roll in together everyone who had responded whether for or against and quoted everyone as "showing an interest" to support what was wanted from the outset.</p> <p>With people confused and not being aware of the difference between a Mayor and a Lord Mayor for Leicester, and with bias already in evidence, it is clear the bandwagon is already moving with eager candidates ready to win and be driven around Leicester and entertained in style.</p> |
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| | | <p>I was met by a previous Prime Minister of Malta over a year ago, a modest incorruptible man who refused a state car that went with the job and who would always sit at the back of his church rather than in front in a special chair. Whilst I was with him, I was astonished by so many "ordinary" people coming up to shake his hand with genuine fondness and admiration for him. Perhaps Leicester might find a similar independently minded person of unquestionable business ethics but such people are seemingly rare in the political world</p> <p>A dramatic system change to have an elected mayor would be a huge leap into the dark</p> <p><i>Further email:</i></p> <p>I oppose the plan to have a directly elected mayor. The people of Leicester have been denied a referendum. Why is that? Of the 37 mayoral referendums that have been held 13 voted in favour of an elected mayor and 25 voted against. Is it a fear of rejection by the public? We need to take heed of the reports from :-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Steve Leach, Professor of Local Government at De Montfort University who wrote the following in evidence to the Committee on Standards in Public Life "There is no evidence that mayoral authorities have performed better as a group than non-mayoral authorities, using Comprehensive Performance Assessment ratings as the basis for comparison. There have been examples of failing authorities showing significant improvement following the adoption of an elected mayor (e.g. North Tyneside, L.B. Hackney) but also examples of elected mayor led authorities whose performance has declined (Doncaster MBC). In both cases the reasons for the improvement or decline are not necessarily a reflection of the effectiveness or otherwise of the elected mayor. 2) Critics of the mayoral model system (and I am certainly one of them) point to the dangers of concentrating power in the hands of a single person. Jane Martin a senior research fellow in public leadership at Warwick Business School wrote, following publication of the local government White Paper of October 2006, "To assume....that an increased concentration of executive authority will lead to even better government and that this should be equated with |
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| | | <p>strong leadership, needs further examination. Investing executive power (and control) in one individual may well allow them to act effectively and decisively but it relies on charismatic individuals and leading from the front and does not necessarily guarantee decisions made in the public interest. On the contrary, the public is best served through inclusive and participative decision-making processes.... strong leadership should be distributed and mobilised throughout the organisation rather than concentrated in one person"</p> <p>I do not think the Leicester Mercury, nor the Bishop of Leicester (who has not acted impartially in Mercury's Friday's First Person column) have done anywhere near enough to explain the options, possible benefits and dangers, We see displayed in Leicester an undemocratic soviet style political party power grabbing by a few people with candidates eager for what could well be a very rewarding lifestyle supported by an extra burden imposed upon ratepayers</p> |
| Postcode not given | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | Preference – Elected Mayor |
| Not City | Not specified | I would prefer not to have an elected mayor. |
| City | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | <p>Given a choice I would keep the Leader and Cabinet but would wish the public to vote for the Leader of the Council from all available Councillors. Has anyone thought of this? I would also like the elected Councillors to vote for a Lord Mayor from all elected Councillors not just 'it's buggins turn' regardless of their politics. In other words we want the best person for the job.</p> <p>As I cannot have the above I will vote for an Elected Mayor. LE2 3JW.</p> |
| City | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | <p>The wish is for a Directly elected Mayor and Cabinet, The suggestion would also be that the number of councillors (presently 54) should be reduced. Whilst appreciating that some areas are more densely populated than others, 2 councillors per district is plenty.</p> |

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| City | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | We myself and my mum are keen to have an elected mayor please |
| Not City | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | I would prefer to have an elected Mayor for Leicester. Reason; It will give the people of Leicester the chance to have a Mayor that they want and not have one imposed on them who would be working for the good of the city and not for any one party. |
| City | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | ELECTED MAYOR & CABINET |
| City | Not specified | I rather think four years is too long. (Personal comment removed.) For that reason, I'm happy to continue with the current system. |
| Postcode not given | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | I am writing to confirm that I strongly support the move to an elected Mayor for Leicester. |
| Postcode not given | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | This is a difficult choice. The City Council has an unimpressive record in moving Leicester forward and too often individual Councillors have seemed more concerned with the narrow interests of their constituencies rather than trying to act in the best interests of moving the city as a whole forward. We have had decades of apparent dithering and slow progress, with some improvement more recently. Perhaps having a four year period of office for the leader would improve stability, though there is clearly no guarantee of it. An elected mayor would ideally be free of party political ties and would be elected on a mandate to move the city forward in declared directions. There is a risk that someone with 'celebrity status' but not necessarily much relevant experience may be elected, especially if the field of candidates is weak. It is not clear how powers would be shared between the Mayor and the Council, but presumably the mayor would have significant authority. Four years is probably a reasonable term from the perspective of being able to deliver significant change. On balance my preference is for the elected mayor. |

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| City | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | We would both prefer an Elected Mayor and Cabinet. We believe this is the way forward. |
| City | Leader and Cabinet | I would prefer a leader who is accountable and can be removed rather than a mayor. I feel that a mayor would be more of a personality contest than a political decision. Already one of the candidates mentioned for mayoral candidate is an ex-football manager of Leicester City Football Club, the only reason that he is in the running is because he was successful at managing the football club – (personal comment removed), and yet he would get a lot of public votes because he is a popular face. The good thing about the current system is that it is a political decision taken within a political process, people are elected largely on their policies for their location. The other reason for not having a Leicester Mayor is that it goes against the localism agenda. |
| Postcode not given | Not specified | I feel a referendum is the only way forward and it seems the people in power are trying to push this through whatever the general public's opinion, typical of L.C.C. |

Responses received by phone

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| Postcode not given | Not specified | <p>Mr MM phoned up and requested that his views be passed onto the consultation.</p> <p>He felt that there wasn't enough time given over to the consultation, to enable people from all communities in the city to take part in it. He felt that this didn't reflect well on the political administration to give such a little amount of time for discussion and debate on the wider issues around having a mayor.</p> <p>He did not give a preference with regard to a leader or mayor.</p> |
| Postcode not given | Not specified | <p>I took a call from MK from 'Sunni Muslim UK' who did not state a preference around the new executive arrangements but asked that his views be incorporated within the consultation.</p> <p>He felt that the length of the consultation period was unsatisfactory, and as he was a recipient of a letter that went out last week, he claimed to have less than one week to respond. He felt that this was particularly difficult for him to consult with others within his organisation within these time scales.</p> <p>He further felt that the local media coverage around the consultation was poor.</p> |
| City | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | <p>I have also taken a call from a Mr T. He claimed to have difficulties submitting his response online, so phoned through to state a preference for elected mayor.</p> |
| City | Leader and Cabinet | <p>A lady with the post code, xxx has rang in and stated her preference for Leader and Cabinet and not an Elected Mayor. Her reasons for this were that a mayor would still be in office even if they were not performing well and could not be removed however a leader could be removed if</p> |

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| | | they were not performing well |
| City | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | A man from xxx rang in to say that his preferred model was elected mayor. |
| City | Leader and Cabinet | A lady with the post code, xxx has rang in and stated her preference for Leader and Cabinet and not an Elected Mayor. Her reasons for this were that a mayor would still be in office even if they were not performing well and could not be removed however a leader could be removed if they were not performing well. |
| City | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | In response to radio interview 6 Dec - Elected Mayor and Cabinet |
| City | Not specified | Not in favour of elected mayor. |
| City | Leader and Cabinet | I had a telephone conversation earlier with a man from xxx who stated a preference for the Leader and Cabinet Model. |
| City | Leader and Cabinet | Prefer leader & Cabinet. |

Community Meeting distribution letter responses
All from community and business addresses within the city

| Preference | Comment |
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| Elected Mayor and Cabinet | In the hope that there will be less party politics in local government and more action on behalf of the council tax payers. |
| Not clear stated Leader and Cabinet – for one year term | I think the current arrangement should continue – annual election, with opportunity for re-election promotes more accountability. |
| Leader and Cabinet | Elected Mayor = more expensive, more increase in Council Tax – Mayor require more or NEW office space. More staff, expensive cars – special privileges – Council Tax payers monies will be wasted left right and centre. At present no value for money, it will never improve so wasteful and unaccountable. |
| Elected Mayor and Cabinet | Hopefully an elected mayor would not be embroiled in party politics and would be able to take an overview of events ensuring that the best interests of residents would be served. |
| Leader and Cabinet | I have previously lived in another area of the country with an elected mayor and know from that experience how costly that option is. Financially “elected mayors” are paid a high sum and I feel that money could be spent more effectively. |
| Leader and Cabinet | I used to live in a Council flat in Auckland, New Zealand as I was employed by Auckland City Council. Then: they elected a <u>mayor</u> , Les Mills, an ex-Olympic shot-putter, full of his own importance, who decided in his wisdom, that Auckland needed an even larger marina, to accommodate all the rich boys and their toys – meaning yachts, so that we could host the |

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| | <p>Americas Cup, and international yacht race. And how did he decide how to raise the necessary millions of dollars, simple! He sold every single council property in Auckland – mainly to Chinese and Japanese investors. We tenants could do nothing. We held meetings attended by a local politician, protest meetings night time vigils, culminating in a handful of those of us who had lived peacefully for 30 or 40 years, were turned out onto the streets. I at least had the option of coming back to England in 1997, where my first year here was dire, living with an alcoholic sister who hanged herself. Then Leicester City Council gave me a bungalow, housing benefit, and a great deal of kindness. I still have friends in Auckland, who are really suffering financial hardship, renting in the private sector at four times the amount that we had before. Many died in abject poverty, because of the whim of a mayor who was too big for his boots. Thank God that couldn't happen here – could it? Don't ask me to even contemplate the reign of terror of such an appointment. Auckland is now mainly owned by Chinese and Japanese corporations. And of course you can have my name and address.</p> |
| Leader and Cabinet | <p>I prefer a system where someone is elected and accountable. If they do not achieve results they can be replaced and if they do re-election is transparent. He/she also relies on support of his./her elected representatives.</p> |
| Elected Mayor and Cabinet | <p>Elected Mayor would be apolitical.</p> |
| Elected Mayor and Cabinet | <p>I prefer this option as an elected mayor would have the power to get things done in the city, over a longer period of time.</p> |
| Elected Mayor and Cabinet | <p>An elected mayor provides someone who is democratically elected but who is clearly held to account for their action/inaction every four years.</p> |
| Elected Mayor and Cabinet | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Because he cares people - The Lord Mayor helps me - Looks after people well |

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| Not clear - stated Elected Mayor and Cabinet | No expensive election Appoint Mayor as previously done |
| Leader and Cabinet | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is not democratic to place a large amount of power in one person's hands - It should <u>always</u> be possible to remove <u>any</u> elected representative if the public are dissatisfied with their performance or behaviour! |
| Leader and Cabinet | Too much power in one person. |
| Elected Mayor and Cabinet | Person we elected can do more work because he/she will know what community requirement. Also he/she can work with community to get better results. |
| Elected Mayor and Cabinet | It is more democratically accountable. |
| Elected Mayor and Cabinet | Leader of Council must be directly approved by the people, in whose trust the Cabinet will be more responsible. 5 yearly fixed date elections should be held to coincide with General Election to save cost. People will be able to remove a corrupt mayor. NB The mayor must take oath on TV so the people know where the mayor stands while serving the people. |
| Elected Mayor and Cabinet | Fresh face, fresh ideas, no one leader in office for 4 years. Once they get their "feet under the table" it's like a "job for life." New rules, new reform. |
| Leader and Cabinet | I prefer the option of Leader and Cabinet because I think the other option would give too much autonomy to one individual. |

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| Leader and Cabinet | I believe an elected mayor and cabinet gives too much political control to a small number of people and the risk of the loss of basic freedoms. |
| Leader and Cabinet | I don't see the point of a different democratic system than the one we have. It would cost a fortune to change and not achieve much difference. Good luck. |
| Elected Mayor and Cabinet | Best leadership option for taking Leicester forward. Encourage inward investment, and entrance its standing among rival regional cities. In place for four years – will provide the necessary standing and confidence to investors. |
| Elected Mayor and Cabinet | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The present system has worked over the years. 2) The decision for change was too hasty & without giving the citizens of Leicester the opportunity to vote on the matter either by referendum or at time of Council elections. 3) In my view, much more consultation is necessary. |
| Elected Mayor and Cabinet | I think an elected mayor would be a good step forward for such a progressive/diverse city as Leicester is striving to be. The public would feel they have a direct impact on what goes on. |
| Elected Mayor and Cabinet | It is the most simple option, people will be able to know what decisions are being made for the good of the city. He or she will stand out in the city at various events. |
| Elected Mayor and Cabinet | I think this would be great for Leicester, make us stand out form other cities. I would like someone who is form Leicester and has the best interest of Leicester at heart for instance Alan Birchenall. |
| Elected Mayor and Cabinet | Maybe people will actually turn out to vote for a mayor and the “club” that is the current cabinet could become more democratic. |
| Elected Mayor | This would be the most interesting proposition – more American in style. It would be good that |

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| and Cabinet | the mayor would be separate & distinct form the councillors – it would be an opportunity for a popular local person to make a real difference for the city. |
| Leader and Cabinet | Now is not the time to change things too much. |
| Elected Mayor and Cabinet | Lord Mayor but cut the spending down, it could go to better needs. |
| Elected Mayor and Cabinet | I've chosen this option because if the mayor is not as he/she should be he can be removed quicker as his term of office is shorter. |
| Not stated | I cannot fill in the choices you suggest. The information is minimal. A tick cannot give a full consideration. What is the salary of a leader and cabinet? What is the salary of a mayor and cabinet? The time scale of this enquiry is far too short. |
| Elected Mayor and Cabinet | To have a more independent body working for the people of Leicester and the local community as a whole. |
| Leader and Cabinet | Because the leader can be removed inside the term of office. If all and sundry stand for the position of Mayor it is possible an unsuitable candidate is elected – he's stuck for 4 years. |
| Elected Mayor and Cabinet | Good examples have been set by Elected Mayor. |
| Elected Mayor and Cabinet | The decision is left up to the voters and the Mayor would be non-partisan and work for the voters and not his/her cohorts in the council. The position is far more transparent, when there is an elected leader. |
| Elected Mayor and Cabinet | Speed up decision making – decisions not just made along party political lines. |
| Elected Mayor | People with experience of handling large budgets, staff & understanding business must be best |

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| and Cabinet | suited to the position, as running the council is on a par to running a complex company – and they should come from a background with appropriate training – value for tax payers money. Less waste – continuing good care for those in need – not those who play the system. |
| Elected Mayor and Cabinet | For the first time I can really have some say in the way decisions are taken concerning commerce, arts, transport are made. If, after two years I am dissatisfied I, and others, can seek a re-election! |
| Leader and Cabinet | I feel that having an elected mayor, who is not a Cllr would lead to confusion and delay in decision making. It is already difficult to balance the needs of the business against the wishes of some councillors and so to have a third party in the mix would only make things worse. I also feel that in this time of cutbacks it is an insult to hard working people to even consider another salary or of unpaid, heavy expenses drain our budgets. |
| Leader and Cabinet | Minimizes potential corruption |
| No preference | Why is a referendum not an option? Are we being run by a dictatorship? If not let the people decide. At the next Council elections in May. That would let democracy decide the way forward. |
| Leader and Cabinet | Any elected mayor would have too much power in the hands of one person. It would involve a move towards a more celebrity culture. The present system is better. |
| Elected Mayor and Cabinet | It will be more fairer. |
| Elected Mayor and Cabinet | The Elected Mayor & Cabinet has worked very well & I can see no reason to change this. A Mayor adds dignity to the city and events – it would be a great pity to lose this. |
| Elected Mayor and Cabinet | I think it would be a good idea to give this a trial period. |

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| Elected Mayor and Cabinet | Time for an update. |
| Leader and Cabinet | Why change a system that works? |
| Elected Mayor and Cabinet | Leader must accountability to city residents not party. |
| Leader and Cabinet | The group I represent are worried that an elected mayor would not be removable before 4 years. |
| Leader and Cabinet | “Councillors have agreed to a wide –ranging public consultation.” – this is a legality. 11 (eleven) day consultation period? Heavy media coverage re prospective mayor candidates. Residents able to vote on line – if they know about the consultation period & have access to a computer – many don’t. This whole consultation process is a farce. We need a referendum. That’s democratic. |
| No preference | At this stage I find it difficult to choose an option because we haven’t been given sufficient information about the role of an elected mayor. My decision would also be influenced by the quality and experience of the candidates required to take over this role. |
| Elected Mayor and Cabinet | It should increase interest in civic affairs generally and local government in particular (Civic Society is in need of regeneration and this development would counter the democratic deficit (low turnouts(and go with the grain of the localism agenda. Election should not be by the crude first past the post system. |
| Leader and Cabinet | Prefer like the way it is at the moment. Prefer the mayor to operate for 1 year as at present – it’s always good to see what individual qualities each mayor brings. |
| Elected Mayor and Cabinet | Because the residents would have more choice of person to vote for to have their say in the running of the city because other cities who have elected mayors are being run very well. |
| Elected Mayor | It si now most appropriate for Leicester to have an elected mayor. Well done to the LCC for |

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| and Cabinet | moving on this. The least money we spend the better. |
| No preference | No comments |
| Elected Mayor and Cabinet | No comments |
| Elected Mayor and Cabinet | No comments |
| Elected Mayor and Cabinet | No comments |
| Leader and Cabinet | No comments |
| No preference | No comments |
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| Leader and Cabinet | No comments |
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| Elected Mayor and Cabinet | No comments |
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Comments made on Leicester Mercury response slips

| Location | PREFERENCE | COMMENTS |
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| City | Leader and Cabinet | Too much power given to one person. The people should have a referendum on this issue. |
| City | No preference | I do not think we should have an elected mayor. If we must (which is a given now) I would prefer a new name – Director? |
| Not city | Leader and Cabinet | I have always found the present system works well so why change it? |
| Postcode not given | Leader and Cabinet | Don't need any more expense. |
| Not city | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | Head of the city. To represent the city at formal occasions ie meeting royalty etc. election by democratic means in British tradition. Would be voted into office on merit by voters an not colleagues for advantages. |
| Postcode not given | Leader and Cabinet | An elected mayor would have too much power and could not be removed if he/she proved to be inadequate. |
| City | Leader and Cabinet | |
| City | Leader and Cabinet | Why pay someone large amount of money for 4 years when Lord Mayor will do job at no extra cost. Too much power for too long. |
| City | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | I think a mayor would have a high profile. He would be more publicly “recognisable.” |
| City | Not specified | Keep things as they are |
| City | Leader and | Another unwanted and unnecessary trough for greedy pigs to get their snouts in. Unnecessary |

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| | Cabinet | because it would duplicate services with the possibility of two warring factions. Unwanted because of the extra cost, ignoring present economic climate. |
| Postcode not given | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | I agree it's time, we the voters, had the chance to vote for a system like this. And select a local citizen who's in touch with what the City people want. |
| Postcode not given | Leader and Cabinet | More stable and democratic. Prevents cliques becoming too powerful. |
| City | Leader and Cabinet | Too much unrestrained power attaches to a single individual in the elected mayor system of governance. Leadership could degenerate into dictatorship. |
| City | Leader and Cabinet | The fact that an elected mayor could not be removed for 4 years and could have an agenda different from the council majority, leading to conflict and impasse. |
| Not city | Leader and Cabinet | Do not trust elected mayor idea. |
| City | Leader and Cabinet | Let the people decide by a city-wide referendum. Please ensure that past councillors do not have their way – we want neither Soulsby nor Vaz nor Willmott. |
| City | Leader and Cabinet | Who decided when. More information required. Why so quick. Something to hide. Leicester citizens only. Re consultation for elected mayor for Leicester City. I wish to make the following observations as a Council Tax payer for Leicester City. 1) In a democracy it should be the right that citizens of Leicester should decide by referendum if a mayor was required. This has not been carried out and by using the local newspaper which is not taken by all the citizens of Leicester but has a circulation of a |

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| | | <p>much larger area will I suspect lead to a flawed reply.</p> <p>2) The Councillors could leave themselves open to possible legal challenges.</p> <p>3) Your consultation document has no mention of remuneration for the mayor and in the current climate if we can afford it.</p> <p>4) If a mayor was elected, will this mean the political leader has his remuneration reduced.</p> <p>5) The fact you require the “consultation” completed by Dec 6th says lot, done deal, the councillors ordered to agree, don’t tell the electorate how much this is going to cost them, treat them like idiots.</p> <p>6) If you are incapable of running the city properly without trying to fool them resign and let some one else try.</p> <p>Yours in disgust.</p> |
| City | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | So they are democratically accountable for decisions. |
| City | Leader and Cabinet | Leader/Cabinet system allows full Council real hold over executive emphasis on collective power, rather than personality politics. |
| City | Leader and Cabinet | A directly elected mayor could lead to complete paralysis with (say) a Conservative mayor and a Labour controlled Council. A mayor cannot be removed for 4 years however incompetent he or she turns out to be, whereas a leader can. A leader is also accountable to the political party he or she belongs to. |
| City | Leader and Cabinet | Insufficient consultation period of time in which to make a sound decision on an elected mayor and Cabinet. |
| City | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | I believe it is more democratic for the electors to choose the mayor not the politicians. |
| City | Leader and | The position of Mayor should not be considered until a referendum is held and at least fifty per |

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| | Cabinet | cent of the electorate is in favour of this position. |
| City | Leader and Cabinet | <p>An elected mayor would have too much power; be less democratic as he wouldn't have to answer to the elected council.</p> <p>Direct election of mayor is likely to attract people with; <u>a big ego</u> money to finance an expensive campaign a wish to further their own pet or business interests or the interests of their own ethnic, religious, social or business group.</p> <p>Such a person could do a lost of damage within one term of office.</p> <p>Voters would not know enough about each candidate to make a proper, informed choice. There are far more safeguards in the present system and I believe that it serves citizens' interests better.</p> |
| City | Leader and Cabinet | Elected Mayor may assume more power and influence than granted by the election. This could be a bigger disaster then at the moment. |
| City | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | The Mayor should be decided by the 'people' not the political parties. |
| City | Leader and Cabinet | The Mayor would have too much power. A wrong one could use his/her authority to favour one religious community over the others. |
| City | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | The city needs to be represented by someone familiar with and respected by Westminster and Whitehall. In order to obtain maximum benefit for the city from its dealings with the central government. |
| Not City | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | Someone independent of ruling party. |
| City | Leader and Cabinet | One man in power with his own choice of Cabinet leaves the whole process open to political bias and possible abuse of the position. |
| No postcode | Leader and | A Elected Mayor would be another parasite the Council Tax payer would have to pay for. |

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| given | Cabinet | |
| Not City | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | An elected mayor whether affiliated to a political party or not should be able to work with all parties and other organisations and act as a true ambassador for the city. |
| Not City | Leader and Cabinet | It's a more democratic process. An Elected Mayor is too insular looking. It's a waste of money. Leicestershire would be better off without the present mayor who's a disgrace. |
| City | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | |
| City | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | One person shouldn't be responsible for running the city. I would prefer it to stay as it is now. |
| Not City | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | |
| City | Leader and Cabinet | The current system works well and I see no reason why concentrating power into one role would improve things there is also the cost of setting up a mayor's office to consider as well. A final point is that personality politics will dominate mayoral elections which is not good for democracy. |
| City | Leader and Cabinet | Most democratic option. Elected Leader would have too much power and no-one to answer to if elected for a 4 year term. |
| No postcode given | Leader and Cabinet | An elected mayor would give too much power to one person. Also, we cannot afford to pay an elected mayor's salary. |
| Not City | Leader and Cabinet | Above preference because an elected mayor would be unfamiliar with council practices. |
| Not City | Leader and Cabinet | I feel that it would be unwise to give the suggested authority to an elected mayor and his cabinet as a politically motivated group could direct the Council's policies for 4 years. |
| Not City | Leader and Cabinet | I prefer a leader and cabinet to make decisions. It seems to me a fairer system. |
| City | No preference | Present system fully satisfactory. NO CHANGE NEEDED. |
| Not City | Leader and Cabinet | Because it allows the councils leaders to be removed through a resolution of full council. |
| Not City | Leader and | I've seen the controversy created by the London Mayor. |

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| | Cabinet | |
| City | Leader and Cabinet | Too much power in one mans hands. Need a referendum. What controls would be in place to stop nepotism and favouritism? No change needed. |
| City | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | Assuming that proper procedures are followed, an elected mayor will give a more balanced and democratic control of the city. Why such little time? |
| City | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | Elected by whole community rather than by councillors. |
| City | Leader and Cabinet | One man should no control everything, including the budget. A cabinet election is much fairer. |
| City | Leader and Cabinet | Elected mayor is not a proven best option in other cities. There should be a referendum to determine the will of the people of the city. A four year term is too long. Too much power and influence in one individual. Undermines democratic processes as decision is being pushed through. |
| City | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | Because I think a mayor should last longer than one year, mayors in other European countries are in office for a number of years. Also we'll know more about that person. |
| City | Leader and Cabinet | Possible conflict between Elected Mayor and controlling party. |
| City | Leader and Cabinet | Unnecessary expense. |
| City | Leader and Cabinet | Having an elected mayor puts too much power in the hands of one person. I am not sure that the citizens will choose wisely. |
| City | Leader and Cabinet | I think an elected mayor would be an unnecessary extra expense in this time of extra cut backs. |
| No postcode given | Not specified | We do not need yet another freeloader junketing at the ratepayers' expense. |
| City | Leader and Cabinet | |

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| City | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | We need a true “born and bred” Leicester man who will lead our proud City in the way it should go. I am honestly sick of incomers who seek self-endorsement. |
| City | Leader and Cabinet | An elected mayor would have too much power for too long without the required experience. |
| City | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | Position to be outside of party politics and to also incorporate position of traditional mayor. |
| City | Leader and Cabinet | I don’t agree with the one person making all the decisions. We think it would be a bad choice for the citizens of Leicester. |
| City | Leader and Cabinet | Elected mayor would have too much power for too long and could be completely unsuitable. |
| City | Not specified | How can we make an informed decision with so little information and in so short a time? What happens, for example, if the Mayor is completely at odds with the rest of the Cabinet? |
| City | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | It would encourage a wider participation of people into politics and selection of better candidates fit for purpose. |
| City | Leader and Cabinet | Less expensive. How do you get rid of a ‘Nut Case’? Leicester had poor record of Council Leaders, why make it worse. |
| City | Leader and Cabinet | It will cost more money i.e. Mayors salary will be high plus support staff – there <u>will</u> be new ones. <u>Also</u> the government recommended a referendum for new systems. Why no referendum? Consultation time not long enough. |
| City | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | The free choice of candidates. |
| City | Leader and Cabinet | I think an elected mayor confuses the democratic process. |
| City | Leader and Cabinet | Current experience decides against unremovable 4 years of power. No rush to ape American practice. |
| Not City | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | |
| City | Leader and Cabinet | |

Comments received via group responses

| Group | Preference | Comments |
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| Chamber of Commerce | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | <p>On behalf of the Leicestershire Chamber of Commerce, I would like to advise you of the results of our formal consultation with members, based within the city boundary, on the two different political models being proposed to run Leicester City Council, as set out in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.</p> <p>In favour of: A Leader and Cabinet 22% A Directly Elected Mayor and Cabinet 78%</p> <p>Therefore, based on the wishes of our members, the Leicestershire Chamber of Commerce will fully support the introduction of a Directly Elected Mayor and Cabinet to run Leicester City Council. In pursuance of this policy, we would like to see the new arrangements put in place in time for the Local Government Elections on Thursday 5th May 2011, with the Elected Mayor taking control on 8th May 2011.</p> <p>Yours faithfully Ruth Ingram President</p> |
| Daman Community | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | <p>I am writing regarding the consultation on an elected mayor in Leicester. I fully support the system of Elected Mayor and welcome the decision by the Council to hold a consultation. This crucially allows the city's electorate to voice their opinions on an important change.</p> |

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| | | <p>I fell the move to a system of an Elected Mayor and cabinet would allow the electorate to have a greater say over the initiatives for the city and that it would provide us with a direct role in the election of that person.</p> <p>This option will also provide the successful mayor with the necessary powers to initiate and develop the required work programmes, without the usual bureaucratic boundary disputes which characterise the current arrangements.</p> <p>Yours faithfully Luis Fonseca On behalf of the Daman Community, Leicester.</p> |
| Consultation with young people | 4: Elected Mayor and Cabinet; 1: Leader and Cabinet | <p>A consultation session for first time voters in May 2011 was held on Saturday 4 December facilitated by Youth Services and attended by an officer from Democratic Support. 5 young people from varying backgrounds and with differing levels of initial knowledge of the consultation and options gave up their own time attend to attend the session between 11.30am - 2.30pm.</p> <p>A short presentation was given which covered the reasons for making the decision, what the 2 options would look like, other Local Authorities that had opted for Elected Mayor, how the decision would be made in Leicester and how the public were being consulted. This was followed by many questions from the group then a discussion with the group on what they thought the pros and cons of each model were. The group then had 3 options in terms of feedback:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) They could each write down their preferred option (Leader/Mayor/No preference) with reason for why and not share with group. 2) They could discuss and come to group consensus with one overall decision to feedback. 3) They could each openly state their preferred option and give their reasons for why. <p>The group decided on the third option and gave the following feedback:</p> |

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| | | <p>Adam (18, Humberstone) Option chosen: Elected Mayor "It will lead to greater debate and compromise in Local Authority decision making. It's more democratic."</p> <p>Michael (18, Leicester Forest East) Option chosen: Strong Leader "It's a similar model to the existing model and I don't like change."</p> <p>Mu-hamid (18, Highfields) Option chosen: Elected Mayor "More democratic, more transparent and chosen by the public."</p> <p>Faisal (17, Evington) Option chosen: Elected Mayor "Publically elected. More likely to get the public and especially young people involved."</p> <p>Fatima (18, Evington) Option chosen: Elected Mayor "Public taking responsibility for choosing its own leadership. An elected mayor is more politically neutral."</p> |
| <p>Knighton Community Meeting</p> | <p>Leader and Cabinet</p> | <p>Minute Extract: "The subject of a directly elected mayor was raised by residents under AOUB and the chair permitted a discussion on the subject. There was a general sense that the consultation was not well known amongst the public in Leicester, and that information provided by the Council was poor. The short length of consultation was seen by the majority as a significant flaw in the process. Asked to indicate their preference for either an Elected Mayor or Strong Leader model the majority supported the Strong Leader by a ratio of about 8 to 1."</p> |

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| Westcotes Community Meeting | Not specified | <p>Minute extract: “Councillor Russell advised that a consultation on whether the City should have either an elected Mayor or strong Leader form of governance was underway and would close on 6 December 2010. Information on the consultation was available on the website and had been distributed to libraries.</p> <p>The Ward Members then explained the proposals and answered questions about the new system:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This consultation was being undertaken as the Council was required to make a decision by the end of the current Council year on the way that the Council would be managed in the future; • Two options were available:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A Leader elected by Councillors from the majority group for a period of four years; or ○ A Mayor elected by the electorate of the City for a period of four years. • An elected Mayor would have the same powers those currently held by the Leader of the Council; • An elected Mayor would select a Cabinet from the pool of Councillors. They did not all have to be from the same group; • An elected Leader could be required by the other Councillors to stand for re-election before the four year term of office was finished; • An elected Mayor could be required to stand for re-election if requisitioned by a percentage of the electorate. (In the case of Leicester, this would be several |
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| | | <p>thousand people);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Government soon would publish its Localism Bill, which it was thought could give the elected Mayor greater powers, such as giving the elected Mayor powers over the police and fire authorities; and • At present, it was not known how much the cost of this change would be. <p>In response to a question, the Ward Councillors explained that the government had placed a limit on the amount that candidates could spend on their election campaign. This equated to either the amount that could be spent for a local election multiplied by the number of Wards in the City (22), or three times the amount that could be spent for a parliamentary election.</p> <p>Some concern was expressed that this could give local businesses an advantage, as ordinary people would not be able to afford these amounts, so could not afford to stand for election for Mayor. In reply, it was noted that, although anyone could put themselves forward for election, it was likely that each of the political groups currently represented on the Council would be putting forward a candidate.</p> <p>The Ward Members advised the meeting that there would be two Special Meetings of Council to consider this matter further, these being held on 9 and 22 December 2010 and urged everyone to make their views known to the Council during the consultation period.”</p> |
| Highfields Area Forum | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | <p>Following the Highfields Area Forum (HAF) meeting held on Monday 29th November 2010, I've been asked to bring the following item to your attention:</p> <p>Elected Mayor or Council Leader –following some discussion, it was agreed to support the elected mayor option, primarily due to the coherence this position will bring to the leadership of the Council and the direct involvement of residents in electing that person. There was some concern over the relatively short consultation period but this</p> |

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| | | <p>was understood in the context of the savings effected by holding the mayoral election at the same time as next May's local authority elections and the avoidance of paralysis within the city council caused by the uncertainties which will arise if a referendum was to be held at a later stage.</p> <p>HAF members were also encouraged to participate in the current consultation being undertaken by the city council.</p> <p>Best wishes, Priya Thamotheram Vice Chair Highfields Area Forum</p> |
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Responses by letter

| Location | PREFERENCE | COMMENTS |
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| City | Not specified | Dear Sir With reference to the consultation. It is very worrying for the Labour Group to be seen to be acting in a very undemocratic manner. It is surely much safer if there is a referendum to decide whether there is to be an elected Mayor or a Council Leader for 4 years. A major changer in how our city is governed should not be decided by a group of Councillors, acting without the consent of the electorate. Why can we not have a referendum on May 5 th ? Our city is made up of communities, it is essential that they are all seen to be well served. |
| City | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | I would like to give my support to an elected mayor model for Leicester |
| City | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | I prefer the Elected Mayor model of local governance. |
| City | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | I wish to support the Elected Mayor model. |
| City | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | My preference is the Elected Mayor model. |
| City | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | I prefer the Elected Mayor model. |
| City | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | I would want an Elected Mayor for Leicester. |
| City | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | My preference is the Elected Mayor model of governance for Leicester |
| Postcode not given | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | I prefer the Elected Mayor model. |

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| City | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | I prefer the Elected Mayor model. |
| City | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | I am supporting Leicester City to have an Elected Mayor. |
| City | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | I am supporting Leicester City to have an Elected Mayor. |
| City | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | I am supporting Leicester City to have an Elected Mayor. |
| City | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | I am supporting Leicester City to have an Elected Mayor. |
| City | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | I am supporting Leicester City to have an Elected Mayor. |
| City | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | I am supporting Leicester City to have an Elected Mayor. |
| City | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | Please note that I would like to support the elected mayor model. |
| City | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | Please note that I would like to support the elected mayor model. |
| City | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | Please note that I would like to support the elected mayor model. |
| City | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | I wish to support the Elected Mayor model for Leicester. |
| City | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | I support the Elected mayor model. |
| City | Elected Mayor and Cabinet | Thank you for providing us with the opportunity to be involved in this consultation. We feel the option for an elected mayoral system will help provide the successful mayor with the power to initiate and develop the required work programmes. We understand the reasons for the short time scale in which this process is being conducted |

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| | | <p>and welcome the decision to involve the City's electorate in this important development.</p> <p>We fully support the proposal for an elected mayor with cabinet in Leicester.</p> |
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