

NEW GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS – CONSULTATION OUTCOME

Comments by respondents

<p>Neither are good options I want properly democratic representative open government locally NOT selective smaller groups of Councillors or extra elected Mayor. The options in this consultation are flawed as they both take democratic power away from the majority of councillors and hand it to a smaller potentially LESS DEMOCRATIC & ACCOUNTABLE group in each of the options. As we have elected all the Councillors all of them should have largely the same responsibility to represent their electorate to be able to debate and decide on strategy and policies which affect our town.</p>	
<p>If the leader is elected by public demand there can be no argument</p>	
<p>I don't like the idea of someone having power for 4 years. I think that we should be able to keep the system that we have</p>	
<p>The summary on your website is totally misleading; it does not differentiate between the situation now (weak leader model) and the model recommended by the powers that be (strong leader). It does not point out that the strong leader model means that the leader of the council has absolute power to determine the remit of the area committee meetings ie amount/scope of local spend, planning and so on. The description must be changed immediately and the consultation redone.</p>	
<p>I want a leader whose qualities are known to and who has the support of the majority of local councillors rather than just someone who can sound good on a soapbox every four years. I want a leader who can be held to account by those councillors rather than one who can do whatever they choose once they have been elected. Having an elected mayor is no different from suggesting that the Prime Minister should be elected by plebiscite and hold office for 5 years regardless of the will of Parliament. Councils are our local parliaments and their powers should not be undermined.</p>	
<p>Both these options would be appalling for residents in Oxford and a backwards step in democracy.</p>	
<p>Reduce the cost of the taxpayer of running whatever system is adopted</p>	
<p>I prefer the current situation to remain as it is</p>	
<p>Changing to an elected Mayor + Cabinet gives a degree of independence within the Council and could help to prevent 'chronyism' within the ranks.</p>	