

REFERENDUM FOR AN ELECTED MAYOR



On 13 October Guildford holds a Referendum whether to have an elected Mayor.

GGG urges you to vote AGAINST this proposal

Former councillor Monika Juneja (convicted at the Old Bailey of forgery, obtaining “pecuniary advantage” by deception and pretending to be a barrister, in 2015) promoted a referendum petition for an elected Mayor which had over 5,000 signatures (5% of the electorate). Students from the University of Surrey were recruited as paid signature collectors.

What is the proposal?

An elected mayor is not like the current mayor - who undertakes non-political civic duties. If you are disillusioned with local politics, please don't be tempted to vote for change! An elected mayor has sweeping political powers. That mayor could unilaterally make all significant decisions for the Borough. It is a system which, in the wrong hands, could be open to corruption.

At best it is undemocratic and at worst dictatorial.

An elected mayoral system, once adopted, cannot be changed for 10 years. Each mayor will serve a 4-year term so this actually translates into 12 years.

While GGG dislikes the current 'strong leader' system which gives decision-making power to an elected leader and the executive, this **can** change organically. BUT it can **only** change if this proposal is rejected. An elected mayor would be a worse system. One individual will make all significant local decisions. Local representation would disappear. There would also be an additional cost - around £250,000 a year.


This is a wholly unnecessary and wasteful exercise. No one except those with a vested interest in pushing through their own particular agenda would benefit. All parties oppose this proposal.

Be assured that those whose particular interests will be served by this system will be voting. A low turnout could give an undesirable result.

Please vote! Your vote is needed and will count.

THE REFERENDUM QUESTION

The wording on the ballot paper is set by legislation. It is not a simple 'yes' or 'no'. The ballot paper will offer 2 options:

"How would you like Guildford Council to be run?"		
OPTION 1 "By a Leader who is an elected Councillor chosen by a vote of the other elected Councillors. This is how the Council is run now."		<i>(In this circumstance this has to be the preferred option)</i> MARK THIS BOX!
OPTION 2 "By a mayor who is directly elected by voters. This would be a change from how the Council is run now."		<i>(In our view this would be a virtual dictatorship with few controls and no transparency)</i>

PLEASE VOTE FOR OPTION 1 on 13th OCTOBER