

**Local Democracy Limited** has been set up by residents who are concerned about the health of our local democracy. The campaign is a broad coalition with members from across the whole borough of Guildford. It is independent of any political party.

## LOCAL DEMOCRACY – TIME FOR CHANGE?

Many residents feel that Guildford Borough Council is making decisions without genuine consultation or adequate discussion. The Council currently operates an Executive system which concentrates power in the hands of 10 councillors, chosen by the Council leader, himself appointed by the party with most votes but not directly elected by the electorate to this role. The majority of councillors are not fully involved in decision-making and cannot effectively represent the people in their area. Recent decisions by the Scrutiny Committee of GBC councillors have been disregarded by the current Executive.

Communities now have the power to do something about this. Under the Localism Act 2011, a petition signed by 5% of local voters will require the Council to hold a referendum on changing the system. The referendum will give residents the choice between staying with the Executive system or changing to a Committee system.

The Committee system ensures that all councillors play an active role in decision-making by serving on a range of committees which take decisions on different policy areas. The decisions from those committees would then be subject to ratification by full Council. At that full Council meeting, every councillor would have the right to challenge the decision and require a vote on it – whether or not they are on that committee – so that every councilor can have input into every important decision made by the Local Council. We believe that the Committee system is more democratic, open and inclusive.

## HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP

Our threshold for getting the signatures we need is high (5243). We need your help!

In order to sign this petition you need to be a registered voter in the Guildford borough. Please ensure you are registered before you sign, or your signature may not be counted. If you are eligible but not yet registered it is possible to register using this link: <https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote>

You can download copies of the petition for physical signature from our sister website <http://guildfordgreenbeltgroup.co.uk>

Or you can print this and send it to:

**Local Democracy Ltd, c/o Hedley's Solicitors, Butler House, Guildford Road, Great Bookham, KT23 4HB** or one of the drop-off points:

- The Stockyard, Horsley Station, KT24 6QX  
check online for the latest list & please let us know if you can provide a drop-off point.

**Ask** other registered voters to sign the petition too. Contact us at [guildfordgreenbeltguardians@gmail.com](mailto:guildfordgreenbeltguardians@gmail.com) to offer help with the process.

**Visit** our sister website <http://guildfordgreenbeltgroup.co.uk> to sign up to the mailing list

Make a **donation** to cover costs (pending accounts being set up, cheques to be made payable to Guildford Greenbelt Group which is currently managing the petition for Local Democracy Limited but will keep all funds separate – mark the back of the cheque PETITION FOR GOVERNANCE).

