



# Beware of an Elected Mayor!

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The Government in London is forcing the City Council to hold a referendum on whether to have an Elected Mayor, or to keep the present democratic system.

The wording on the ballot paper is misleading. It doesn't say that an Elected Mayor could become a local dictator. It doesn't tell you about the vast cost.

The Government forced Leeds to put out a leaflet costing the public about £125,000. It was very misleading. It did not tell you about the excessive powers of an Elected Mayor. The Referendum will cost £250,000.

It's estimated an Elected Mayor would cost Leeds **ONE MILLION POUNDS** over four years. **What a waste!**

## **Elected Mayors: Costly, Disruptive, Undemocratic**

### **Our Present System is MORE Democratic**

Every year, one third of Leeds councillors stand for re-election. If people do not like what they are doing then they can vote them out.

In Leeds, control of the Council switched twice in six years.

Even strong Leaders in Leeds are constantly checked by their fellow Councillors.

Elected Mayors can govern for 4 years without anybody holding them to account.

- Elected mayors can pay themselves £150,000 or more per annum, plus expenses - over three times the pay of the present Council Leader
- They can appoint their cronies to important Council jobs and may decide their pay.
- They're in power for four years and cannot be removed - even if they're a disaster.
- They have most of the Council's powers concentrated in their hands.
- They can divert money from the Council budget into their own pet schemes. In fact, Councillors are powerless to prevent or change the Elected Mayor's decisions.
- The City's historic role of Lord Mayor could be threatened .
- Elected Mayors have been a huge and disruptive failure elsewhere. People in Doncaster are about to vote on whether to get rid of the position. Stoke have already dumped theirs.

For more information, visit <http://www.noleedsmayor.net>



# Beware the Trick Question!

**There is a very misleading question on the referendum ballot paper. It's designed to trick you into voting for an elected mayor.**

The question is **How would you like Leeds Council to be run?**

**The first option is:** *"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."*

**That is Option 1 and we ask you to put your cross there.**

The second option is: *"By a mayor who is elected by voters. This would be a change from how the Council is run now."*

**Option 2 is seriously misleading.** At present voters elect councillors who then choose a Council Leader. Unlike an Elected Mayor, a Leader does not have total power over the Council. The Councillors constantly scrutinise the Leader and could quickly replace this person if he or she lost an election or failed to do the job properly. This second option would create an all-powerful Elected Mayor who could govern unchallenged for 4 years and could NOT easily be replaced or held to proper account.

An Elected Mayor takes almost all the powers of the Council. He or she would be free to do whatever they liked within those powers.

**You have a choice.** You can vote for keeping the present democratic system.

**That is option 1 on the ballot paper.**

The second option is to vote for an Elected Mayor who would seize most of the Council powers but without any proper control by councillors or the general public.

**Please Vote for Option 1:**

**How would you like Leeds City Council to be run?**

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



*This referendum has been imposed on us by London and is an expensive distraction from the huge challenges the city faces. An elected mayor could cost up to an extra million pounds over four years.*

**Councillor Keith Wakefield, Leader of the Labour Group on Leeds City Council**

*An elected mayor is not a good idea. It is a recipe for conflict. I do not think it is workable.*

**Councillor Andrew Carter, Leader of the Conservative Group on Leeds City Council**

*There was no appetite for an elected mayor in Leeds. The proposal was completely against our wishes.*

**Councillor Stuart Golton, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group on Leeds City Council**

**The Leaders of the Green Party and the Morley Borough Independents have also expressed their opposition**