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CONSULTATION ON GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

RESPONSES	DATE	COMMENTS	An Elected Mayor with Cabinet Executive	A Leader with Cabinet Executive (New Style)
1	08/10/2009	I have just read a report asking for opinions from the public about having a directly elected mayor for Wirral. Before I can comment, could you please tell me who initiated the decision to hold consultation about having a mayor? Did it come from the cabinet, the current leader, council officer or one of the political party members? Presumably, after the public consultation, the final decision will rest with the vote of councillors, is that correct?	No preference made	
2	08/10/2009	<p>With regard to the proposed changing form of local government. I have reached the reluctant conclusion that our so called democracy is no longer serving the public interest. The abuse of the whip system by the political parties has negated whatever benefits it might have had a hundred years ago when introduced.</p> <p>The public too must take a share of the blame for the failure of what might have been a beneficial system of government. They have in the last fifty years insisted in voting for the politician who promised what they wanted to hear, regardless of the facts...</p> <p>The consequent practise of lying (renamed spin) has been a necessity to any party wanting office.</p> <p>The Election of a Mayor could find a way of removing the pressure a self indulgent populace puts on those who supply the services we need. I suggest the practise of holding failed politicians to account on tower Hill might have a beneficial affect.</p> <p>A very wise man said about 20500 years ago that if you increase a man, sense of security you will decrease his self sufficiency. I would give my life to protect the health service but fear the welfare state has got out of hand</p> <p>A less democratic and less corrupt system is now needed.</p> <p>Churchill rallied the Nation with a promise of blood sweat and tears. I heard him make that speech and witnessed the way the people rallied to him.</p> <p>It is the population who have to measure up to trhe challenge as well as the politician . I am so sorry for my granchildren being fed on a diet of self indulgence.</p>	X	
3	08/10/2009	I wish to inform you that I would prefer to be elected by the people of Wirral so that they have a direct in working of local government	X	
4	08/10/2009	I choose to opt for a directly elected mayor by a direct public vote for a 4 year term. The provision must be included for the elected incumbent of the Office of Mayor to be voted	X	

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		out of office by the public if considered to be unsuitable. Councillors should not have any powers to elect or terminate the publicly elected Mayor..		
5	08/10/2009	I fully support the system of an elected Mayor for Wirral He should have a Mandate to be non Political, have full executive powers, and be elected by the population at regular periods. His first job should be to reduce the total council costs, but not needlessly by reducing staff.	X	
6	09/10/2009	New style, please.		X
7	10/10/2009	I support the idea of Wirral Having an elected Mayor, when will this happen, send me details	X	
8	12/10/2009	This email is to register my support for the idea of a directly elected mayor for Wirral. I would like to see also a mechanism which could remove any mayor from office during his term by members of the public and not councillors. The Wirral electorate are fed up with the lack of responsibility and accountability with the current 'shared responsibility' cabinet system. One last thing would make the whole idea work better for the public and that is to continue the current arrangement of a non-party political mayor i.e. an independent. Otherwise we will be back to where we are now in everything but name	X	
9	12/10/2009	Further to the above notice on the Council website. Please advise whether it is possible to view further details held by the Council of these proposed changes. I did follow the link included to the Communities.gov.uk site, however I was unable to locate much additional information. In addition please can you advise where I can find details of the workings of the consultation process.	No preference made	
10	13/10/2009	The proper consultation would be to ask the electorate in a ballot which they would prefer and not just through a consultation process via the web site. This will reach only a few of the residents, whereas a call for a referendum will reach the vast majority of the people, unless of course, councillors would prefer that to be the case. It should be pointed out that a Mayor elected by councillors is unlikely to be unpartisan, with buggins turn being observed by the main three political parties. A direct election would give all councillors, including the independants an opportunity to stand for election for Mayor and I hope that there will be significantly more of them, at the next election.	No preference made	

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11	15/10/2009	I would like to endorse the view that the future Mayor of Wirral should be elected by the electorate.If he could be persuaded ,the ideal candidate would the honourable Frank Field M.P.,a man with proven track record of trust by the people of Wirral	X	
12	15/10/2009	Please add my details to the vote on an elected mayor instead of an elected leader	X	
13	15/10/2009	A Mayor directly elected by the electorate of Wirral Under this option there would be a separate election process to elect a Mayor. This would mean that the electorate would get a vote for a person to lead the Council, rather than Wirral Councillors voting on a Leader. The Mayor would be elected for four years and would be able to choose his/her Cabinet. However as he or she has been directly elected by the public Councillors would not be able to vote to replace him or her. I believe this would be the best option. If it was necessary to remove the Mayor for whatever reason to again put the proposals to the public.	X	
14	15/10/2009	After reading the documentation I fully support the idea of an Elected Mayor for Wirral.	X	
15	15/10/2009	The two systems are not as good as the existing system as the Mayor is elected for four years and is not easily stopped. The lesser of the two evils is the election of a Councillor as Mayor, by other politicians. They know who the candidates are and what they stand for. John Barnes could be elected as Mayor if the wider electorate (excluding Tranmere fans) was consulted. Popular figures are not necessarily good at governance, Boris Johnson being a prime example of incompetent rule.	X	
16	16/10/2009	I personally support the idea of a directly elected Mayor. I believe this system would make the council more accountable to the electorate. Please add my name in support of this system	X	
17	16/10/2009	I have sent the following email to the three Councillors representing the New Brighton ward:	No preference	

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		<p>Re : Possible elected Mayor for Wallasey / A leader with a new style of cabinet executive.</p> <p>After reading the attached article from the Wirral Globe of 14 Oct 2009, I asked five neighbouring households if they knew anything about these proposed changes to our local democracy.</p> <p>I'll print the least severe comments:</p> <p>"It was news to me Jim."</p> <p>"Nope, I've not heard of any consultations.....here we go again!!!"</p> <p>"I haven't got a clue; have I lost the plot or what?"</p> <p>So it appears that none of us know about any proposed changes and none have heard about meetings or "consultations." Yet suddenly we appear to be having these changes thrust upon us.</p> <p>As one of our local Councillors, could you explain why this is?</p> <p>It seems local democracy can be given and be taken away by central government without any reference to the electorate.</p> <p>Do you think this is right?</p> <p>Could you and your colleagues arrange some meetings in the New Brighton Ward - quickly by the sounds of it - so that we can make some informed suggestions about the proposed changes?</p> <p>It would be the democratic thing to do, would it not?</p>	made	
18	20/10/2009	<p>If the last year has confirmed anything it is that Wirral Council is not terribly good at Consultation a suspicion long held amongst residents of the Borough.</p> <p>We have a situation currently where Cabinet Style governance has produced a kind of elective dictatorship and although your preamble tells us that this "may" reflect all the political parties you know perfectly well that it does not currently do so. You also tell us that all the Councillor's elect the Cabinet which may well be the theory but practice as you</p>	X	

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		<p>are well aware is rather different.</p> <p>The main difference in the "new style" Leader and Cabinet is the election for four years. However our electoral cycle is actually three years and a gap year which is surely something that needs to be addressed before adopting another "new" system.</p> <p>There is no mention of a new committee system which would bring more transparency with a greater power to full Council to re-examine controversial decisions and ensure that all our elected Councillors had a proper role to play.</p> <p>The direct election of a Mayor who then picks his Cabinet which then could be a Cabinet of all the talents and possibly all the parties and independents' is an interesting one. The elected Mayoralty in London seems to have worked reasonably well. It would also seem to me to work just as well with a revised committee system even if the current "Government knows best" attitude still prevails by not giving us the option. We could get rid of the poorly attended Area Forums by giving power back to our local Councillors so that each of them had the opportunity to intervene on our behalf.</p> <p>The options before us are inadequate and uninspiring but of those I would definitely back "The directly elected Mayor as the best way forward and if it is for a four year term then sort out our electoral cycle at the same time. Let us hope that this would bring back some transparency to Wirral Governance.</p>		
19	22/10/2009	Having considered the information available, I would like to register my view that I would be in favour of having an elected mayor.	X	
20	23/10/2009	<p>Further to the article on p. 2 of the Wirral Globe of 14th October, I prefer the first of the two possible procedures, i.e. that the Mayor should be chosen by councillors. There are two reasons for this:</p> <p>1) It is difficult for members of the general public to identify a Livingstone/Johnson type of person in Wirral who could handle the job; which leads onto</p> <p>2) Councillors, from their experience, could more readily identify such a person.</p>	X	
21	23/10/2009	<p>I would like to register my comments re: possible elected mayor.</p> <p>Firstly I feel it is wrong that the present council should make this decision the members of the present cabinet have a vested interest and any decision should be left until the</p>	No preference made	

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		<p>council elections when the public could decide at the same time as electing their councillors.</p> <p>It seems like another attempt by the present cabinet to force through something whether the people of Wirral want it or not. Remember the library fiasco.wake up Councillor Faulkes you are there for the people of Wirral not your own power building.</p>		
22	29/10/2009	I think that Wirral should have an elected mayor.	X	
23	01/11/2009	<p>I wish to record my view that the position of Mayor should be filled by public election and that this process would demonstrate a fairness and equity presently not transparent. Candidates should have to demonstrate how they are best fitted for the position and what they will achieve within this role and this should be within the public arena, the alternative would be worrying as we would then have the possibility of a Mayor with little or no understanding of the complexities of the position under the new system. Under the present system the mayor tends to be a figurehead with no defined powers or role in the eyes of the public and a councillor who has given his/her best service to the community served would not necessarily have the skills to undertake the new role.</p> <p>I hope that the people of Wirral are fully informed and consulted on this process.</p>	X	
24	11/11/2009	i was wondering if the council will be sending out voting slips to all of us? and indeed whether they were going to contact us personally (take all reasonable steps to contact people) to explain this process in more detail or rely on people having access to the internet and the wirral site in particular.it seems that the council have not learnt the lessons from the library scandal. it would also be nice to know when the people of wirral will get to see the library report that we paid for.	No preference	
25	12/11/2009	<p>If our comments are to be made public please omit all our personal details including our names.</p> <p>We do not feel that this consultation process has been made easy to respond to & would suggest that all Wirral residents on the electoral roll should be informed by mail when major changes come up for consultation in the future.</p> <p>With regards to this consultation, we feel that better option would be A Leader with Cabinet Executive (New Style).</p>		X

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		<p>We believe that this would offer better value for money for the tax payer as well as provide the electorate with the possibility of the leader being removed/ replaced, should the need/ momentum require it.</p> <p>Should you wish any more detail on our thoughts with regards to this then please do not hesitate to contact us.</p>		
26	18/11/2009	ELECTED MAYOR???-----NO NO NO NO NO NEVER NO NO NO NO NO NOT EVER		X
27	20/11/2009	<p>In response to the request on the Wirral website I would like to give my response as a registered voter in Wirral.</p> <p>I feel that a directly elected mayor, able to choose their own cabinet, would provide clear direction and would be more accountable.</p> <p>I can foresee that there will be problems when the Council and Mayor disagree, and I am not clear from the the information what procedures will be in place to avoid deadlock. I would also be concerned if an elected Mayor turned out to be some sort of Derek Hatton like figure i.e.. very unrepresentative of the real interests of the voters, so I hope there would be ways to recall a Mayor in circumstances where he or she is seen to fail in serving the interests of the public.</p> <p>If safeguards are in place the Mayor could be a positive force for good in delivering a high quality service efficiently and accountably.</p>	X	

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28	24/11/2009	<p>Given the two options, I would select the A Leader with Cabinet Executive (New Style) My gut feeling is that a Mayor would be even less democratic than what we have at present as he/she could not be voted out for four years. Have we anyone in Wirral who is of such stature that we could trust them with running the Council with no checks.</p> <p>I would point out that the Council has performed very badly in fulfilling its duties under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, by virtue of which it is required to take 'reasonable steps to consult people in its area.'</p> <p>It would not seem that asking people to send comments either by post or email, without providing a proper response form in either paper format or on line is very poor procedure and falls far short of taking 'reasonable steps to consult', as required by the Act..</p> <p>Surely it does not take much to devise a simple questionnaire nor to set up a simple voting section on a website – 'What do you Think ?'. If Strictly Come Dancing can do it surely it is not beyond the capacity of WBC ?</p>		X
29	25/11/2009	<p>Since my email to you on the 16th October, I have received no replies from either yourself or any Councillors regarding meetings to discuss the changes in the way we are governed locally. (The issue was not discussed at the Wallasey & New Brighton Area Forum on 21st October).</p> <p>I would like it to be made known that there should be many meetings throughout Wirral to discuss the changes.</p> <p>In the last 30 years, central government has removed more and more decisions from local governments. If Wirral Council continues to ignore the local electorate, then they will become more and more remote from them, leading to the conclusion that they do not represent us in any shape or form.</p> <p>We are way past the time when it was just appropriate to tick a box every four years. People want more involvement in local decision-making. From the current financial crisis that the country faces, there is a direct line to the disconnection of local politicians from the electorate. The electorate are exactly the people whom the Councillors should be connecting with, so that less power leaches away to central government.</p> <p>According to the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, before</p>	No preference made	

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		<p>drawing up its proposals the authority must take reasonable steps to consult people in its area.</p> <p>In fact, a Wirral Council Cabinet meeting document of 24 Sept 2009 states: "The guidance on consultation is not prescriptive but the emphasis is on giving the local community the opportunity to choose between directly Elected Mayors and indirectly Elected leaders."</p> <p>Are there going to be meetings to discuss the changes? We don't want stuff forced down our throat. And we may decide that the current system isn't that bad, though, as I've stated, the connections are badly broken.</p>		
30	26/11/2009	<p>I feel strongly that the election of a mayor would be the better option.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If one purpose of the change is to get more consistency in policy execution, the elected mayor will last longer as there are a number of circumstances in which a leader elected by councillors will cease to operate before the termination of the four years. 2. One of the weaknesses of the current party political system is that there is so little willingness in the parties to listen to and take into account the views of the opposition. An elected mayor would have more authority to seek compromise even if he was the candidate put forward by a political party. 3. In selecting the cabinet an elected mayor would be freer to select the best person for the job without regard to the balance of power within parties. He could also take into account other issues such as ensuring that there is as far as possible representation in the cabinet of different areas. 4. The election process would give an opportunity for the electorate to question candidates about how they proposed to exercise their authority and to receive reassurances about this. <p>I presume that we will be given an analysis of the results of the consultation and an indication of how this influenced the decision of the Council on the next steps.</p>	X	
31	27/11/2009	<p>regarding the consultation, my husband and I have discussed this and would like to register that we both feel that the elected mayor would be the best option.</p>	X	
32	27/11/2009	<p>at a meeting of the Liscard & Egremont Partnership, held on the 24th November 2009 we considered the issues in this paper. It was decided without dissent that we would prefer a directly elected Mayor. There was a strong feeling that this was the democratic way of appointing a leader. Some members also felt that this might prove to be a good way to reduce political party antagonism and reach appropriate compromises. Under the present</p>	X	

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		<p>system we noted that Wallasey has no representation in the cabinet, with an elected mayor it is possible to have assurances on issues like this before the election.</p> <p>We are expecting a full analysis of this consultation in the New Year , together with a statement on how the information from the consultation had influenced the council decision.</p>		
33	27/11/2009	<p>I wish to respond to the consultation on the new proposals for governance in Wirral. I cannot understand the pressure for yet another change in local government. There have been a large number of changes over the past ten years and we really need time for the last one to settle before embarking on yet another. For this reason, I believe the best option for Wirral would be a Leader elected by the whole Council. This would cause the least disruption to services and the operation of the Council.</p> <p>Wirral is a very diverse community with diverse needs ranging from very poor to very rich residents. It includes poor inner city areas, industry (including docks) urban and suburban areas, rural villages and farms. Therefore, it would be impossible for the needs of everyone to be served by one person, which is what an elected mayor represents. Why an imported American idea is deemed appropriate for Britain escapes me. To misquote a famous politician: "You can please some of the people all of the time and all of the people some of the time, but you cannot please all of the people all of the time!" I also think it is an extremely dangerous idea to give one individual power over issues such as a budget and appointing members of a Cabinet. The essential of our democratic system is that there is always room for an opposition. An elected mayor eliminates this option. The turn-out in local elections is falling and I cannot believe it would be any better in that for an elected mayor. It is therefore highly unlikely that a successful candidate would receive more than 50% of those eligible to vote and therefore claim that s/he had the support of the people of Wirral.</p> <p>I hope, therefore, that the Council will adopt the option of an elected Leader.</p>		X
34	27/11/2009	As a local resident, I am writing to express my support for the option of an elected mayor with cabinet executive for the future governance of the Metropolitan Borough of Wirral.	X	
35	27/11/2009	Until the beginning of this year and the Strategic Asset Review, I had taken little or no interest in my local council on the basis that I paid my council tax and the services I used were of an adequate standard.	X	

		<p>Having now had the opportunity to attend meetings of the full Council, scrutiny committees and to review the detailed output of both councillors and officers, I now have a greater sense of the significant weaknesses of the current system and structure.</p> <p>The implementation of revised governance arrangements should provide the strong, effective and accountable leadership that will address these weaknesses in a timely manner.</p> <p>The analysis of the options available needs to be put in the context of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the challenges and issues faced by the Wirral; • how these challenges shape the requirements of the role of leader, whether directly elected or not; and • which of the two alternative systems gives the better chance of the Wirral getting the leader it deserves and needs. <p>Challenges and issues faced by the people of the Wirral</p> <p>All levels of government are going to be faced with tough budgetary decisions over the coming years and all local authorities are going to have to contend with the current trend for increased micro-management from central government. Further outsourcing will also be high on the agenda, but none of these issues are unique to the Wirral.</p> <p>There are also those issues that politicians at all levels are seeking to avoid. The best example here is defined benefit pensions for local authority workers. Neither local or central government is willing to face up to the real cost of providing these pensions in the future and to take the necessary remedial actions as many in the private sector have done so already.</p> <p>On the Wirral, there are a number of specific challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the need for economic regeneration. The Wirral has lost much of its traditional industry and its role as a commuter area for Liverpool and Chester cannot sustain the borough; and • the demographics of the Wirral mean that it is very difficult within the confines of the three party system to get a truly representative council. Given the inherent majorities in many wards, people do not feel that their votes count. This sense of disenfranchisement is heightened by the fact that the Conservatives form the 		
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		<p>largest group yet the Council is controlled by a Labour/Liberal coalition.</p> <p>It is essential for the future of Wirral that the governance review provides the best model for future leadership. Having identified the challenges and issues, the requirements of the role must be considered.</p> <p>Requirements of the role</p> <p>The Communities and Local Government website states that the governance arrangements should “enable local leaders to use their wider influence as well as their powers to get things done for their communities”.</p> <p>To do this, the leader must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • establish an appropriate strategy for Wirral; • build a team to implement the agreed strategy; • compete effectively for scarce resources from central government and other sources of funding; • be an effective communicator within the council, the business community and with the people of the Wirral; • be able to cut through the bureaucracy and jargon that is endemic in local government; and • provide the leadership to get things done. <p>The key question is “which governance arrangements will provide the most effective route to ensuring that Wirral has the leader who has all of these qualities?”.</p> <p>Advantages of the a directly elected mayor</p> <p>The directly elected mayor model has the better chance of success because it provides a direct linkage between the people of the Wirral and its leadership.</p> <p>A directly elected mayor has a number of advantages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • they would have an mandate directly from the people of Wirral, addressing the dis-enfranchisement issue highlighted above; • the prestige of the role would attract candidates, with suitable qualifications, who may not be attracted to the more traditional, and time consuming, route of working 		
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		<p>their way up through the political group;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the political parties could source excellent candidates from outside the current pool of councillors; • encourage voters to participate in local elections because of the “presidential style” of the office; and • it would allow independent candidates to stand more easily. <p>Consultation process</p> <p>I have read the “New Council Constitutions: Consultation Guidelines for English Local Authorities” on the Communities and Local Government website and note that local authorities should view this process “as much an opportunity as a duty”.</p> <p>The Council have failed to grasp this opportunity. Apart from a couple of small pieces in the local free newspapers and a brief technical announcement on the Council’s website (sandwiched between announcements relating to the BBC’s Gardeners’ Question Time programme and the retention of the Investors in People award), coverage and active consultation has been very poor.</p> <p>Qualified recommendation</p> <p>For the reasons set out above, a directly elected mayor provides the greater chance of Wirral getting the leader it needs and deserves. However, we are very much in the hands of the politicians and their current leaders to ensure that they identify, possibly at the expense of personal ambition, suitable candidates for the position of directly elected mayor.</p>		
36	28/11/2009	<p>I am an employee of Wirral Council, and a resident of Wallasey. I would like to offer my opinion on this important decision for the future of Wirral.</p> <p>I believe that Elected Mayors are the way forward. As shown by London, irrespective of party affiliation, the election process generated direction for the region, and a Mayor would be someone who could not evade responsibility. The Mayor would not be just a figurehead, but someone with real power, who could speak up for the people of Wirral, because they would have a direct mandate.</p> <p>As the development at Wirral Waters progresses, I foresee that Wirral will become an equal to Liverpool for employment prospects and investment. We will need someone with</p>	X	

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		the direct authority to make crucial decisions on behalf of the people of Wirral.		
37	28/11/2009	I would like to give my support for an elected Mayor for Wirral, I would like to see an elected representative who put the people of Wirral above Party Dogma and Whitehall pollicy, an elected mayor of the right calibre could stand up to the local quangos and councillors who want Wirral to be part of Lliverpool without a democratic mandate.	X	
38	29/11/2009	<p>May we offer the following views regarding the 2 Local Governance Options -</p> <p>* An elected Mayor with Cabinet Executive -</p> <p>A) Such an election would appear to burden an electorate hardly versed nor enthusiastic with yet another version of the democratic process, in consequence this would also incur further Administrative procedures & costs.</p> <p>B) With little or no recourse in accountability throughout the 4 yr term would ineffect render the new post as unchallengeable (at least in the interim), in turn furthering apathy amongst the electorate.</p> <p>* Leader with Cabinet Executive -</p> <p>A) Limiting the Elected Representatives the right to remove the 'New Leader' from office should the need be required.</p> <p>B) It is an assumption that the Leader election & Cabient selected would merely be a reflection of the Council's balance of power.</p> <p>Whilst the latter offers lesser changes to the present system of Governance, with Elected Members right of recourse then it would appear to safeguard democratic representation throughout the 4yr tenure.</p> <p><u>Therefore, our preference would be for Wirral Council to opt for - A Leader with Cabinet Executive (New Style).</u></p>		X
39	30/11/2009	<p>Local Authorities (Referendum) (Petitions & Directions) Regulations 2000</p> <p>Having read the details given in this Notice I would vote in favour of "A Leader with Cabinet Executive (New Style)</p> <p>I must draw attention that there has been extremely limited public information given to this matter to enable a wider consideration on these proposals which is a direct failure by the local authority in their duty under the requirements of the above Regulations.</p>		X
40	30/11/2009	I am responding to your request for comments on the two proposals for the governance of the Borough, in particular for Leadership positions on the Council. May I say at once that I should wish to see a third option – that of a return to the Committee system which	X	

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		<p>operated before 2001 and of which I had first hand experience.</p> <p>Either of the proposed options would move us further in the direction of concentrating power in the hands of fewer people. We have 66 councillors but some fifty of them are already effectively sidelined.</p> <p>The issue of governance should certainly be subjected to public scrutiny and discussion. I am fairly conscientious in my attendance at Local Forum meetings, as an ordinary voter representing no community grouping or interest. I would have expected an issue of such importance as the possibility of an elected mayor to be thoroughly examined and debated locally. No such exercise was attempted to my knowledge, raising the question as to whether such forums are capable of addressing serious issues.</p> <p>Have we had articles in the local papers by proponents of the two options in preparation for full and open discussion in public meetings across the Borough such as those which followed the publication of proposals on Sports Centres and libraries? Not that I have seen. How can it be argued that the Council has taken reasonable steps to consult the people in its area?</p> <p>My choice would be for an elected executive mayor but only after a long period of preparation and education of the electorate. Time must be allowed for serious experienced executives from outside the ranks of local government to consider and prepare for standing for election.</p> <p>With either of the proposals initiated too hastily and in the present climate of distrust of established politicians, we could well end up with a chump in a gorilla suit in charge of our affairs.</p>		
41	30/11/2009	<p>It is the view of the persons named below that, under the new arrangements for Council, there should be a Mayor elected independently by all Wirral residents.</p> <p>Terry Edgar John Hankey Joyce Hockey Rev. Father Leon Ostaszewski</p> <p>'Committee for the Centenary of the Wallasey Borough Charter 1910'</p>	X	

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42	30/11/2009	<p>I believe that it would be for the good of the electorate to have a directly elected mayor. It may also cause the community to become more involved with council affairs. Also it may mean that the council becomes more accountable to the electorate.</p>	X	
43	30/11/2009	<p>After private discussion we wish to make the following points:</p> <p>This consultation has not been carried out in a manner which would lead to maximum contribution from the public - Information about the consultation was not widely publicised (for instance, staff in the drop in centres seemed unaware of the existence of the information sheets or of the nature of the public consultation). We became aware of it only towards the end of November - we do normally attend our local area forum but understand the issue was raised at the one recent forum we were unable to attend.</p> <p>Basically, we do not want either of the forms of governance arrangements suggested and object to it being forced upon us as both seem to be lacking in democratic principals - in option A the leader, having been elected by the full council. would be able to be the sole decider of members of the cabinet. The cabinet (chosen by one councillor) would then have complete control. In option B a similar problem exists as, although the Mayor would be elected by the full electorate, s/he would then still have total control over which councillors were to be in 'cabinet'.</p> <p>This is a totally undemocratic way of managing local government. In neither option A nor option B is there any point at all in having local councillors (particularly if the councillor for the ward in which one voted was not a member of the majority party) as decisions will be made by a small group of councillors selected by one person.</p> <p>Does this mean that we no longer have a Mayor for ceremonial purposes as now? Who will perform the role of representing the people of the borough in the many local events which now benefit from the presence of the Mayor?</p>	No preference made	
44	30/11/2009	<p>Having read the document thoroughly, I have decided that I would prefer <u>A leader with Cabinet Executive (New Style)</u>.</p> <p>This, in my view, would provide a more democratic system, that electing a Mayor possessing overall power for four years despite any shortcomings he/she might have and there being no means of replacing him/her.</p>		X

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45	30/11/2009	<p>I consider that the powers given to politicians should be limited to the minimum necessary to fulfil a particular governance function.</p> <p>do not like the prospect of a publicly elected Mayor, apparently irremovable for a period of 4 years.</p> <p>I therefore prefer WBC to have a Leader elected by the whole council, who could 'in extremes' be removed by them.</p>		X
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SUMMARY

	A Directly Elected Mayor and Cabinet Executive	A Leader and Cabinet Executive (New Style)	No Preference Indicated	TOTAL
No. of Responses	28	9	8	45
% of Total No. of Responses	62.2%	20%	17.8%	100%