

Those who said yes to Mayor

Case	Comment	Address
1	I work in the District	Hainault Ilford*
2	I feel that this is a democratic system which reflects the communities wishes	North Weald
3		North Weald
4	This is a far more democratic process with both visibility and accountability which we have seen most recently with the London Mayor. A much better approach as the leader is almost anonymous now to the public in this area.	Buckhurst Hill
5	I also feel that the Mayor's Cabinet appointments must be subject to a 2/3rds majority vote of the whole District Council & that the Mayor may recommend to the District Council the suspension or dismissal of a Cabinet member for misdemeanour, & that the Electorate-especially in the Ward of the Councillor-be informed & given the chance to protest at the suspension/dismissal.	Loughton
6		North Weald
7	Is there a box for the referendum?	Loughton
8		Epping
9	More open democracy can only be good for the area - make the council more accountable and make citizens feel more involved in local government.	Chigwell
10		Ongar
11		Buckhurst Hill
12		Loughton
13		Woodford Green*
14		North Weald
15		Theydon Bois
16		Theydon Bois
17		Theydon Bois
18	I believe it is important for the head of the council to be elected by the residents and not by council members. This is the basis of our democratic society. Electing a Leader through an internal process is open to question and does not necessarily reflect the wishes of the people.	Theydon Bois
19		Theydon Bois
20		Theydon Bois
21		Theydon Bois
22		Theydon Bois
23		Not given
24		Not given
25		Theydon Bois
26		Theydon Bois
27	Remuneration and expenses should be limited to a combined total of £25000. This proviso to ensure the post encourages persons committed to serving the local community.	Epping
28		Theydon Bois
29		Theydon Bois
30		Theydon Bois
31		Theydon Bois
32		Theydon Bois,
33	This consultation has not been widely enough advertised. More use should be made of public notices in the street. Not everyone buys the local paper regularly or has regular (if any) access to the internet.	Theydon Bois
34		North Weald

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35	The Leader Of Council is an important position to often resulting in a small in-crowd deciding who should be leader. An Elected major would result in better and less politically motivated leader.	Loughton
36		Not given
37		Theydon Bois
38		Theydon Bois
39		Theydon Bois
40		Theydon Bois
41		Theydon Bois
42		Waltham Abbey
43		Epping
44		Ongar
45		Moreton, Ongar
46		Not given
47		Stapleford Abbotts
48	This would lead to a more democratically run council	Theydon Bois
49		Epping
50		Loughton
51	I wasn't even aware of this consultation	Loughton
52	Its about time democracy became real by giving residents the power to vote in either a leader or major and vote in the members of cabinet. Why should a major or leader be given the automatic right to decide who runs the council? Until things are fairer and residents are considered, then its no wonder only 100 people have replied out of how many 1,000's?	Nazeing
53	An Elected Major with an Elected Cabinet is real democracy.	Nazeing
54	We need somebody who can manage the processes effectively, particularly financial, within the Council and who will not be controlled by ECC and who will remain independent of local politics.	Epping
55	I would like to know why all our children of school age and the ones that go to college have to pay full pay on the buses and in London you can travel free we need free transport for our kids so they too are able to travel on the bus not be charged the earth unless you buy a years saver for £10 and 16years or over £70 and you still get charged the earth	Ongar
56	I think one of the reasons for the poor response is that no one appears to know about the consultation and not many think it will be listen to it's a bit like the parking review for Buckhurst Hill and Epping, if you don't get the answer you want 'bury it'	Loughton

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Cases	Comment	Address
1		Not given
2	It would cost a lot to hold an election, Elected Mayor cannot be removed.	Loughton
3		Epping
4	Until and unless a Mayor can be recalled by the voters there should be no separately elected role	Epping
5		Chigwell
6		Loughton
7	The cost of an elected mayor cannot be justified in these times. Also with a leader and cabinet there is a change every year, but with an elected mayor we have one for a fixed period and this is not good.	North Weald.
8	Regret there is no option to discontinue the cabinet system, but feel on balance the existing leader and cabinet system is more accountable to the public/electorate. I would not want to see money wasted changing to a mayoral system that has few discernible advantages.	Ongar
9	In a relatively geographically and demographically scattered area such as Epping Forest district, it is important for electors to maintain a close relationship with their local ward councillors who can respond to often very local needs. Moving to a Mayor and Cabinet system removes a great deal of influence away from ward councillors to a smaller group of individuals who may not appreciate so well the fine grain of residents' concerns. I am also concerned that focusing political attention on a single mayoral figure may result in Epping doing a "Doncaster" where an inexperienced figure can win election on a wave of short-term populism or revulsion of national political issues, doing damage to the area through that inexperience and inability to use the political and administrative tools at their disposal. The current system, despite its flaws, works best for the longer-term interests of residents, businesses and the area.	Epping
10	I believe the councillors are better placed to select an appropriate leader than the electorate at large, due to their knowledge of the candidates.	Loughton
11		Epping
12	Why are we considering wasting money on this? Surely with the way money is at the moment this is a waste of time and money.	Loughton
13		Loughton
14		Loughton
15		Not given
16	Electing a mayor may result in someone who does not have the support of the majority party which would cause friction and lead to difficulties in decision making. Whatever ones views are on the majority party, since they represent the views of most of the electorate following a democratic vote their policy should in the main prevail.	Theydon Bois
17		
18		
19	I think the current system is more democratic and that the Mayoral system leads to more idiosyncratic local government and less accountability. I am very firmly opposed to changing to a mayoral system!	Theydon Bois

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Cases	Comment	Address
20	I consider the existing system quite satisfactory and the introduction of a mayor would simply be another expense on the council taxpayer to fund another election of another person to start a new gravy train	Loughton
21		Epping
22		
23		
24		Theydon Bois
25	Don't want one person having too much power	Theydon Bois
26		
27		Waltham Abbey
28		Theydon Bois
29		
30		Buckhurst Hill
31		
32	I think that the change to a Cabinet system will mean that decisions take a lot longer to make, and the alteration of the existing system and referendum etc. will cost the local authority a significant amount of money, which is not sensible in the current financial climate.	Epping
33	Additional layer government, more support staff, more expenses, not democratic. "All power corrupts, absolute power corrupts absolutely" (Lord Maitland).	Theydon Bois
34		
35		
36		
37		North Weald
38		Epping Green
39	I feel the leader and cabinet system has more accountability to the full council. If the majority on the council felt the leader was not up to the job, they could change her. An elected mayor would have too much power, tipping the balance away from the council chamber. It also leads to the dominance of personality politics, which I don't think is helpful in politics and detracts from real issues. Experience suggests that lines of accountability largely depend on the attitude of the mayor rather than the system itself. Hence, Hartlepool's mayor is widely popular and praised as an effective leader, whereas Doncaster has had a miserable experience with two successive mayors who do not have the confidence of the council chamber leading to a state of conflict that prevents business running smoothly. The political crises in Doncaster would not have arisen under a leader and cabinet system.	Loughton
40	No change required. Cost of election and implementing new system can not be justified.	Hastingwood
41		Epping
42		Waltham Abbey
43	My choice as above is guided by the poor response you have had to this consultation so far by the same people who you would look to to elect a Mayor.	Coopersale, Epping
44	I think having a leader is a fairer system	Working in the District*
45		Epping
46		Buckhurst Hill,
47	The current system works very well	Waltham Abbey

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Cases	Comment	Address
48		Loughton
49	I read in the local paper that you are looking for views on the idea of electing a mayor - don't even go there. A complete waste of time and money. the existing system we have works well, what we do not need is another layer of local government as per Boris or the Hartlepool monkey.	
50		Loughton
51		Loughton
52	It is unacceptable to set a deadline of 16th Nov 2010 when Grant Shapps MP states that the council must resolve by 31st December 2010. This is not allowing residents full consultation time. I believe that a deadline date of late December would be more appropriate.	Buckhurst Hill