

How does the mayoral system fit in with local government?




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There are two types of mayor

- Ceremonial



- Elected




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Ceremonial mayors

- Some districts have the ceremonial title of borough or city, granted by royal authority. Traditionally, their councillors choose a mayor (in Scotland a provost) to act as presiding officer and to perform civic ceremonial duties.
- Their role is non-political and they can not make decisions about council business. Mayors wear a gold chain of office and a red robe on special occasions

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### Elected mayors

The Local Government Act 2000 introduced new changes, including the option of directly elected mayors

Elected mayors responsible for day to day running of local services.

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### Elected mayors continued

- Voted for by local electorate
- Serve 4 years
- Provide political leadership to the council & community
- Carry out local authority policies

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### Systems of leadership

Based on one of three executive frameworks:

- a mayor and cabinet
- a council leader and cabinet
- a mayor and council manager
- Most English and Welsh local authorities have opted for a style of executive where the leader of the cabinet is chosen by other councillors.

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### Referendums for an elected mayor

- Local Government Act 2000 required councils in England and Wales to hold binding referendums if, following consultation, local people indicated that they wanted to directly elect a mayor
- Councils may choose to hold a referendum, but local residents can also force a referendum with a petition signed by at least five per cent of registered voters in the area.

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There are at present 15 elected mayors  
(excluding the Mayor of London)

- The number will rise to 16 once Bristol elects its first mayor in November 2012.
- The Localism Act allows for the delegation of “local public functions” to “permitted authorities”.
- Cities with an elected mayor will automatically meet the requirement for strong and accountable leadership necessary for taking on new powers and funding streams.

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### The formal powers of the Mayor of London

- Derive from the Greater London Authority Acts. He acts as a strategic and regional coordinator.
- high-profile policies:  
Transport for London, the Metropolitan Police Authority, the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority

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Any questions?



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