

Comments from members of the public regarding consultation exercise on New Executive Arrangements

1.	Stop messing with governance changes and focus on delivering services. A loud NO to any change.
2.	My view is that the Council should adopt the Strong Leader option. Elected Mayors are an expensive gimmick which will not improve the performance of the Council, or accountability to the public, or return any enhanced value for money. In short, the concept of elected mayors is plain silly.
3.	Neither model being offered would be an improvement. What Exeter needs is unitary status with no change to electoral and mayoral arrangements.
4.	<p>I don't often read the Express and Echo but I was surprised to see the news item about this topic on 21st October. Presumably there is a Localism BILL and not yet an ACT.</p> <p>I never really understand the subtle differences between an Elected Mayor and a Strong Leader. I suppose it is mainly a question of public relations and allows the media to focus on one person (they like that – see Green Party). We hear a lot about Nick Bye as Elected Mayor of Torbay. In the circumstances I suggest you go for the Strong Leader as this will be less visible and most people won't understand the point anyway. There is already a Leader but the problem is the lack of a clear party political majority. If he was called the Strong Leader this would have unfortunate overtones of North Korea.</p> <p>After the farce of unitary status I suggest the less visible the changes are the better. I assume there are no current proposals for reorganisation.</p>