



## **Lewes District Council**

### **Petitioning for an elected Mayor**

The Local Government Act 2000 allows you to petition your council to hold a referendum on whether local people should elect a mayor to lead the council. This is conducted under the Local Authorities (Referendums) (Petitions and Directions) (England) Regulations 2011.

#### **What is our current arrangement?**

For each local authority there is an executive. Depending on the local arrangements, the executive is organised in one of three ways:

- a directly elected mayor and a cabinet of councillors; or
- a leader elected by the council and a cabinet of councillors; or
- a directly elected mayor and a council manager appointed by the council.

We have a leader, elected by the council and a cabinet of councillors.

#### **What is a directly elected mayor?**

A directly elected mayor is elected by all the voters in the council's area to be the head of the council's decision-making body. A directly elected mayor should not be confused with the ceremonial mayor.

#### **Why is a referendum necessary?**

The introduction of a directly elected mayor is a significant constitutional change and so a referendum is held to give all voters in the area a chance to choose if they would want this to happen. In order to call a referendum for a directly elected mayor, a petition must be compiled which is signed by 5% of the number of local government electors that are shown in the current Register of Electors. This 5% figure is called the 'verification figure' and is published annually as a formal notice below:-



**Lewes District Council**

**District of Lewes**

**The Local Authority (Referendums) (Petitions & Directions) (England)  
Regulations 2000**

**Publication of Verification Number**

In accordance with Regulation 4(1) of the above regulations the number that is equal to 5% of the number of local government electors shown in the revised register of electors having effect on the 15 February 2019 is:

**3,785**

This figure will have effect for the purposes of determining the validity of Petitions presented from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020.

The above number will apply to any petition submitted to the Borough Council before 1 April 2020. However, a new number will be published in February 2020 and if the new number is less than 3785, then the new number will apply from the date it is published.

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Dated: 15<sup>th</sup> February 2019