



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

**Lewes District Council
The Local Authorities (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 15th February 2020 is:

3956

This figure will have the effect for the purposes of determining the validity of Petitions presented from 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021.

The number equal to 5% of the local government electors for 2021 will be published within 14 days of the 15th February 2021. If this number is less than 3956, the number to be used for verification purposes in relation to any petition submitted for the period beginning on the date of publication of the lower number until 31st March 2021 shall also be that lower number.

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15 February 2020