Views sought on Council’s political structure

You are being asked to share your views on how the Council should be run. There are two options - which one do you think will work best in Bournemouth?

Joy Postings, Service Director for Law and Governance, said: “Our preferred option is to continue with a Leader and Cabinet which has worked well since 2002. By opting for an Elected Mayor, this will be an extra cost for the Council and we feel that residents would benefit from this money being invested in public services.”

88 percent of residents trust and have confidence in councillors

The Standards Committee is best known for dealing with complaints against councillors alleging that they have breached the Code of Conduct. But it also has a wider role that extends to promoting and maintaining high standards of behaviour, helping councillors stay on the right side of the Code.

When asked to name what they thought would be the types of behaviour required of councillors, as part of the Code of Conduct, a survey of residents found:
- 50% thought councillors should act honestly and in accordance with the law
- 32% said they should treat everyone with courtesy and consideration
- 25% volunteered that they should not use their position for their own or someone else’s personal gain
- 23% thought they should declare any personal interests, gifts or hospitality, which could give rise to a possible conflict of interest
- 20% said they should not pass on confidential information.

When told that councillors should conform to all five of the above, 88 percent of the residents surveyed stated they had confidence in local councillors to comply.

Let us know your views
Email: democratic.services@bournemouth.gov.uk
or write to: The Democratic Service Manager, Bournemouth Borough Council, Town Hall, Bourne Avenue, Bournemouth. BH2 6DY by 31 August.

Option A
Leader and Cabinet
- Full Council elects the Leader to serve for four years - compared to one year at present
- The Leader can then appoint between two and nine councillors to form a Cabinet.

Option B
Directly Elected Mayor and Cabinet
- The Mayor is elected by voters in the town to serve for four years
- The Mayor is not a councillor therefore he/she will work full-time as a Mayor
- The Mayor can appoint between four and nine councillors to form a Cabinet
- An elected Mayor is different to the ceremonial Mayor.

More information
www.bournemouth.gov.uk/leadership
Telephone: 01202 451163.

Roy Wardle, Chairman of the Standards Committee, said: “I am pleased to see that these survey results suggest the work of the Committee is paying off, and our emphasis on supporting councillors in complying with the Code of Conduct, rather than seeking only to focus on breaches, looks to be yielding results.”

The Committee’s Annual Report and other information can be found at: www.bournemouth.gov.uk/council