

APPENDIX 1**Q1 Should there be a more uniform pattern of local government electoral cycles in England? If so, why?**

The Committee felt that there should not be a uniform pattern of local government electoral cycles in England.

**Q2 To what extent should local preferences be taken into account when considering future arrangements for local government electoral cycles?**

The Committee felt that it was not the job of a London Borough to suggest what pattern of local government elections is held elsewhere, where local circumstances need to be taken into consideration.

However, it can be noted that the continuation of all out elections every 4 years in London is supported. A move away from this system would be unnecessarily be confusing for electors. The London model with Greater London Authority/ Mayor for London elections every 4 years, 2 years after the council elections gives the electorate a say about their local services at the ballot box every 2 years

We are not able to report on any elector-based demand for more frequent elections or a different pattern.

On the other hand, news reports there are elections “across the country” where there are no elections in London does cause some confusion, and Electoral Services take a stream of phone calls from would-be electors waiting on a poll card.

**Q3 Should the current four-year term of office for local Councillors be retained? If not, why?**

Yes.–The four year term could be said to provide a reasonable balance between an accountability to the electorate and providing enough time for an administration to implement their policies.

**Q4 In areas with more than one tier of local government, should elections to different levels continue to be staggered, or held at the same time? Why?**

They should continue to be staggered.

**Q5 In developing options for change to the current local government electoral cycle, should the Commission consider the possible future combination of local government elections in England with other national or European elections? If so, why?**

No. It has been suggested that there is an element of confusion from voters when combined elections take place. It also seems desirable, if electors are to focus on the relevant local issues at a local government election, for the election not to be combined with either elections for other tiers of local government or with other national or European Union elections where possible.

**Q6 Do you have any comments or further evidence on the evidence which we have gathered? In particular, we would value any practical experience or local examples of the issues discussed.**

No.

**Q7 In addition to the arguments outlined above, are there any other relevant issues which we should take into account?**

No

**Q8 In considering the simplification of the local government electoral cycle, which issues or arguments are the most important? Why?**

In order to legitimise local democracy, maximizing election turnout is most important. A confusing and poorly understood pattern of elections would be to the detriment of turnout.