

## Questions to Group Leaders

1. Name: Hilary Jones
2. Party: Liberal Democrats
3. What are the advantages and disadvantages of the **current** electoral cycle for your Members?

### Advantages

- Ward issues are relevant to the next election
- Can campaign on current manifesto issues
- Momentum & moral easier to keep up

### Disadvantages

- More mixed wards can lead to tensions over emphasis of different party policies.
- Always campaigning!

4. What do you see as being the advantages and disadvantages of a **4 yearly electoral cycle** for your Members?

### Advantages

- Fewer Elections to work towards
- Win slates of candidates in ward
- Easier to plan longer term
- Easier to implement tough/unpopular policies
- Stability if you are largest Group

## Disadvantages

- Much harder to keep up morale if in opposition
- Harder to keep momentum going between elections
- Little relevance for annual meeting of council and decreased relevance of full council
- Majority Party can develop the 'divine right of kings' i.e. feel too safe and untouchable

5. What are the advantages and disadvantages of the **current** electoral cycle for the City of Derby (the Council and the residents)?

## Advantages

- More desire for councillors to work closely with residents
- More responsive to residents needs
- Residents can easily unseat an unpopular member or send out warning to an unpopular administration
- Keeps a small or minority administration on its toes

## Disadvantages

- Lack of continuity if the colour of the council changes regularly
- Annual upset to work
- Not easy to time implementation of unpopular policies
- If the council changes colour stuck with previous administrations budget

6. What do you see as being the advantages and disadvantages of a **4 yearly electoral cycle** for the City of Derby (the Council and the residents)?

#### Advantages

- Cheaper as less elections to run
- Have 4 year plan for policy and budget
- Better able to implement any change of direction
- Continuity of policy
- Easy for Officers to see direction of travel

#### Disadvantages

- More by-elections which could in close council change direction mid term
- Much harder to remove unpopular administration this could lead to arrogance in the administration and side- lining the opposition
- As 51 candidates would need to be found by each party this could lead to it being harder to find people to stand 153 (plus any independents greens etc) as against 51+ at present.

7. Would your Party support a move to a 4 yearly cycle?  
(Please give reasons for your answer)

If proportional representation by STV were in place then the Liberal Democrats would favour 4 yearly elections in multi member constituencies.