

The role of the Mayor of London

There are several parts to the Mayor of London's job, but his/her main role is to make London a better place to live.

He/She is in charge of developing plans and setting the budget for:

- transport
- planning and development (= new building projects)
- housing
- regeneration (= improving run-down areas)
- culture and tourism
- the environment.

However, he/she must ask Londoners their views about many of his/her plans before making the changes. He/She also works closely with the Metropolitan Police, Transport for London and the London Fire Brigade.

adapted from www.london.gov.uk/who-turns-london-mayor-role.



	City	Mayor's name	Political party
1	Bedford	Dave Hodgson	Liberal Democrat
2	Doncaster	Peter Davies	English Democrats
3	Hackney	Jules Pipe	Labour
4	Hartlepool	Stuart Drummond	Independent
5	Leicester	Sir Peter Soulsby	Labour
6	Lewisham	Sir Steve Bullock	Labour
7	Liverpool	Joe Anderson	Labour
8	London	Boris Johnson	Conservative
9	Mansfield	Tony Egginton	Independent
10	Middlesbrough	Ray Mallon	Independent
11	Newham	Sir Robin Wales	Labour
12	North Tyneside	Linda Arkley	Conservative
13	Salford	Ian Stewart	Labour
14	Torbay	Gordon Oliver	Conservative
15	Tower Hamlets	Lutfur Rahman	Independent
16	Watford	Dorothy Thornhill	Liberal Democrat

Referendum on elected mayors – May 2012

On 3 May 2012, 10 of the largest cities in England held referendums to decide whether or not to have a directly elected mayor. The cities were:

- Birmingham
- Bradford
- Bristol – the only city which said yes (voter turnout 28%)
- Coventry
- Leeds
- Manchester
- Newcastle upon Tyne
- Nottingham
- Sheffield
- Wakefield.

Sources:

The Guardian Reality Check Wednesday 2 May 2012:

www.guardian.co.uk/politics/reality-check-with-polly-curtis/2012/may/02/mayoral-elections-london-mayoral-election-2012

BBC News Bristol: www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-bristol-20340154

Powers of a local mayor

An elected mayor has powers similar to those of a leader of a local council. With the council, the mayor sets the local authority's annual budget and decides what the city does about areas of local importance such as libraries, hospitals, schools, children's services, and crime and disorder. To change or reject a mayor's proposals, the council must agree by a two-thirds majority.

Most elected mayors also appoint up to nine councillors as members of a cabinet and can delegate powers to cabinet members*. In practice, the mayor takes personal responsibility for decisions and so most mayors delegate very little.

* Other mayors choose a council leader who appoints the cabinet.

adapted from:

Wikipedia Directly elected mayors in England and Wales:

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Directly_elected_mayors_in_England_and_Wales#Powers

New Local Government Network: www.nlgn.org.uk/public/elected-mayors/mayoral-briefing/

Improving your local area

- Introduce bikes in the city centre which can be borrowed free of charge.
- Give each secondary school student access to an iPad in lessons.
- Provide free healthy cooking courses to young parents.
- Build more sports centres and create more green spaces (parks and playing fields).
- Introduce cafés, free talks and book groups in local libraries.
- Arrange for police officers to have informal question and answer sessions in secondary schools.
- Have local artists paint murals on the walls of the local hospital.
- Turn a car park into a beach volleyball court each summer.
- Set up 'walking bus' schemes where parents take turns to walk children to school.

Voter turnout

= the number or percentage of people who go to vote

Referendum

= a vote when people decide about an issue, rather than choosing electing a politician or party

Manifesto

= a written statement of what a political party or politician believes and wants to do