

Appendix 2: Key features of a mayoral combined authority

Role of the Mayor

By law, for all mayoral combined authorities:

- the Mayor is Chair of the Combined Authority,
- the Mayor cannot be a constituent Council member- a vacancy arises if Council member is elected as Mayor, and
- the Mayor must appoint a Deputy Mayor to act in their absence.

Functions carried out by the Mayor

A Mayor is responsible for carrying out “mayoral general functions”, on behalf of a mayoral combined authority. These are defined by a bespoke Order for each mayoral combined authority, reflecting the relevant Deal.

A Mayor also has statutory power to exercise bus franchising functions and may (subject to an Order) exercise Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) functions.

Constraints on the Mayor

An Order may prescribe conditions or limitations on how a Mayor carries out their general functions, such as a requirement that the function is exercised subject to the consent of a relevant local authority.

Decisions made by the Mayor will be subject to overview and scrutiny arrangements, including call-in.

Mayoral decision-making arrangements

Mayoral general functions are exercisable by a Mayor in their individual capacity unless delegated by the Mayor:

- to the Deputy Mayor,
- to another Combined Authority member,
- to a Combined Authority officer,
- to a committee of the Combined Authority - but only where this has been authorised by the Order, or
- under joint arrangements – again, only as authorised by the Order.

Non-Mayoral functions

Any function of a mayoral combined authority for which the Mayor is not accountable, is the responsibility of the mayoral combined authority, (that is, may be discharged collectively by all members of the mayoral combined authority, or delegated to committees or officers).