

# Part 2 - Articles

## Article 1 – The Constitution

- 1.1 The Constitution of the Combined Authority comprises of Parts 1– 7.
- 1.2 The Combined Authority will exercise all its functions (powers and duties) in accordance with the law and this Constitution. If the Constitution conflicts with the law, the law shall prevail.
- 1.3 The purpose of the Constitution is to:
- enable the Combined Authority to provide leadership to the community in partnership with councils, citizens, businesses and other organisations,
  - support the involvement of citizens in the process of local decision-making,
  - enable decisions to be taken efficiently and effectively,
  - provide ways to hold decision-makers to public account,
  - ensure that no one reviews or scrutinises a decision in which they have been directly involved,
  - clarify who takes decisions and ensure that decision-makers explain the reasons for decision, and
  - help deliver the Combined Authority’s vision of a more prosperous West Yorkshire.
- 1.4 Where the Constitution permits the Combined Authority to choose between different courses of action, the Combined Authority will choose the option which it considers closest to the purpose set out above.

### Interpretation

- 1.5 The Mayor<sup>1</sup> shall make any final decision regarding the application of the Constitution, in consultation with the Head of Legal and Governance Services.

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<sup>1</sup> With the exception of any issue in respect of the business of a meeting of the Combined Authority including any committee or sub-committee; the Chair of the meeting will make any final decision in consultation with the Head of Legal and Governance Services or their nominee.

## Reviewing and Approving the Constitution

- 1.6 The Head of Legal and Governance Services will annually review the Constitution to ensure that it is fit for purpose<sup>2</sup>.
- 1.7 Any document in the Constitution will be approved as follows:
- by the **Combined Authority** (where arrangements are the Combined Authority's responsibility),
  - by the **Mayor** (where arrangements are the Mayor's responsibility),
  - by both **the Combined Authority and the Mayor** (where arrangements are the responsibility of both),
  - by the **Combined Authority, Mayor and/or the LEP** (where there are joint arrangements).
- 1.8 The Director, Corporate and Commercial Services has delegated authority under the Officer Delegation Scheme in Part 3 of the Constitution to amend the Combined Authority's Contracts Standing Orders and Financial Regulations on behalf of the Combined Authority.
- 1.9 The Head of Legal and Governance Services has delegated authority under the Officer Delegation Scheme in Part 3 of the Constitution to make minor amendments to any other document in the Constitution on behalf of the Combined Authority.
- 1.10 Any amendment to the Constitution must be recorded and published.<sup>3</sup>

## Access to the Constitution

- 1.11 The Head of Legal and Governance Services will make the Constitution available for inspection by the public:
- at the Offices of the Combined Authority at any reasonable hour, and
  - on the Combined Authority's website.

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<sup>2</sup> The Combined Authority will consider any recommendation from that review at the Combined Authority's Annual Meeting.

<sup>3</sup> Any amendment approved at a meeting of the Combined Authority will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting. Any amendment approved by the Mayor outside of a meeting of the Combined Authority, or by an officer under delegated authority, must be recorded on a written record and published.

**Document version control**

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