

# Part 2 - Articles

## Article 6 – Citizens and the Combined Authority

### Voting

- 6.1 Local government electors for the Combined Authority's Area have the right to vote directly for the Mayor<sup>1</sup> on the ordinary polling day every fourth year from 2024.

### Information

- 6.2 The Access to Information Rules in Part 4 of the Constitution set out the public's rights to information held by the Combined Authority, including:
- in relation to meetings of the Combined Authority and its committees and sub-committees, (subject to exceptions including in relation to confidential or information information), rights:
    - to attend meetings,
    - to inspect agendas of and reports to meetings and background documents,
    - to access documents after a meeting including minutes, and
    - to report on and record a meeting.
  - to inspect the Forward Plan to find out about:
    - any Key Decision to be made by the Combined Authority, and
    - any request to be made a Constituent Council for a Statutory Consent to exercise a concurrent function or in respect of a decision of the Mayor which gives rise to a financial liability,
  - to inspect written records of decisions made by the Mayor and others authorised to make decisions under arrangements agreed by the Mayor,
  - to inspect written records of decisions made by officers,
  - to access information generally held by the Combined Authority<sup>2</sup>,
  - to inspect a list of Combined Authority Members, and
  - to inspect information about the exercise of PCC Functions.

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<sup>1</sup> Article 3 of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority (Election of Mayor and Functions) Order 2021

<sup>2</sup> The Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR) apply to the Combined Authority.

- 6.3 Citizens also have the right to inspect and make copies of the Combined Authority's accounting records and related records, and local government electors for the Combined Authority's Area may question or make objections to the Local Auditor – see further Article 9 (Audit and Ethical Arrangements).

## Consultation

- 6.4 The Combined Authority must consult with citizens in accordance with any statutory requirement to do so.
- 6.5 In relation to PCC Functions, the Mayor, after consultation with the Chief Constable, must make arrangements for obtaining the views of the community on policing<sup>3</sup>, including in relation to a Police and Crime Plan – see further the Budget and Policy Procedure Rules in Part 4 of the Constitution.

## Petitions

- 6.6 Citizens may submit a petition to the Combined Authority or the Mayor. Any petition received by the Combined Authority will be dealt with in accordance with the Petitions Scheme in Part 4 of the Constitution<sup>4</sup>.

## Complaints

- 6.7 Citizens have the right to complain to the Combined Authority under its complaints scheme, or the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (after using the Combined Authority's complaints scheme).
- 6.8 Citizens may submit any complaint about the conduct of a Combined Authority Member to the Combined Authority's Monitoring Officer in writing, in accordance with the Procedure for considering complaints alleging a failure to comply with the Members' Code of Conduct in Part 5 of this Constitution. This includes complaints about the conduct of the Mayor, whether in relation to PCC Functions or otherwise.
- 6.9 In relation to Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, where they are a member of the Combined Authority, complaints can be submitted to the Monitoring Officer as in 6.8 above. Where the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime is not a member of the Combined Authority, complaints should be submitted to the Police and Crime Panel<sup>5</sup>.

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<sup>3</sup> In accordance with Section 96 of the Police Act 1996

<sup>4</sup> To be of effect from the Combined Authority's Annual Meeting on 24 June 2021

<sup>5</sup> That is, the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel - Elected Local Policing Bodies (Complaints and Misconduct) Regulations 2012/62

## Citizen's Responsibilities

- 6.10 Citizens must not be violent, abusive or threatening to Combined Authority Members, Co-optees or officers, and must not wilfully harm the property of the Combined Authority, any Combined Authority Member, Co-optee or officer.

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