

Article 5 - Citizens and the Combined Authority

Voting

- 5.1 Local government electors for the Combined Authority's Area have the right to vote directly for the Mayor on the ordinary polling day every fourth year from 2025.

Information

- 5.2 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:
 - o to attend meetings
 - o to inspect agendas of and reports to meetings and background documents
 - o to access documents after a meeting including minutes, and
 - o to report on and record a meeting.
 - to inspect the Forward Plan to find out about:
 - o any Key Decision to be made by the Combined Authority, the Mayor, or an officer of the Combined Authority, and
 - o 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, and
 - to inspect a list of Combined Authority Members.
- 5.3 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 8 (Audit and Ethical Arrangements).

Consultation

- 5.4 The Combined Authority must consult with citizens in accordance with any statutory requirement to do so.

Complaints

- 5.5 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).
- 5.6 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.

Citizen's Responsibilities

- 5.7 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.