

# Article 3. Citizens and the Combined County Authority

## 1. Voting

- 1.1 Local government electors for the Combined County 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.

## 2. Information

- 2.1 The Access to Information Rules in **Part 4** of the Constitution set out the public's rights to information held by the Combined County Authority, including:
- in relation to meetings of the Combined County 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 County Authority, and
    - any request to be made to 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 County Authority
  - to inspect a list of Combined Authority Members

## 3. Consultation

- 3.1 The Combined County Authority must consult with citizens in accordance with any statutory requirement to do so.
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## 4. Petitions

4.1 The Combined County Authority does not operate a Petitions Scheme.

## 5. Complaints

5.1 Citizens have the right to complain to the Combined County Authority under its complaints scheme, or the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (after using the Combined County Authority’s complaints scheme).

5.2 Citizens may submit any complaint about the conduct of a Combined County Authority Member to the Combined County 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.

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