



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE
& PETERBOROUGH**
COMBINED AUTHORITY

What is a Mayoral Combined Authority?

A Mayoral Combined Authority brings together local authorities across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. They are responsible for services such as transport, planning and skills provision. A Mayoral Combined Authority also has access to large investment funds which they can use to

- grow their local economy
- provide new housing
- improve public services.

The Combined Authority will be headed by a Mayor, similar to the Mayor of London. The Mayor will form a cabinet, comprised of the leaders of the local authorities. Together the Mayor and local authority leaders make up the Combined Authority.

Why have Combined Authority Mayors been created?

We are witnessing a shift in power from Whitehall to local areas, with devolution deals taking powers and resources from central government and placing them in the hands of local leaders in Mayoral Combined Authorities. With these new powers and funding it is only right that local residents have the opportunity to elect someone who can be directly held to account for the exercise of these powers.

Will a Mayor take powers away from my Councillor or local authority?

Through the devolution deal, the Combined Authority (led by the Mayor) will be able to use new funding and powers, taken from central Government, to:

- drive economic growth
- improve adult skills provision in their area
- both manage and coordinate public transport in the region – for example bus services.

In addition, where it makes sense, local authorities will transfer powers to the Combined Authority level to ensure that services are effectively delivered. A good example of this is transport, where the Combined Authority will work to determine the busiest roads and ensure they are both managed in an integrated way and get the right level of investment.

What's the difference between a Local Authority/City Mayor and a Combined Authority Mayor?

A Mayor of a Combined Authority is an individual elected by voters from across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. The Mayor has powers, devolved from central government, over areas such as transport, skills and planning across the whole Combined Authority region. In comparison, a Mayor for a city or a local authority, like the Mayor of Bristol or the Mayor of Lewisham, is an individual elected by voters across a much smaller geography, who has responsibility for running his or her council.

How long will the Mayor's term run for?

The first Mayoral elections for the Combined Authority will be held on 4 May 2017. These Mayors will be in post for a four year term.

Who will hold the Mayor/Combined Authority to account?

Ultimately the Mayor will be held to account by voters at the ballot box every time there is an election.

In addition, the Combined Authority is legally required to establish at least one Overview and Scrutiny Committee and an Audit Committee. The Mayor and members of the Combined Authority must respond to the reports and recommendations produced by these committees.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has the power to 'call-in' decisions that have been made but not implemented, and can ask that these decisions be reviewed. The committee can also require the Mayor, members or officers of the Combined Authority to come before it and answer questions; any such request must be complied with.