

Metro Mayoral Elections on 1 May 2025

The metro mayors due for election on 1 May 2025 are those leading combined authorities with strategic transport powers. These are distinct from local authority mayors. Based on recent sources, such as the Institute for Government and government election timetables, the four metro mayoral elections are:

1. West of England Combined Authority Mayor
2. Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Mayor
3. Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority Mayor (inaugural election)
4. Hull and East Yorkshire Combined Authority Mayor (inaugural election)

These align with the 2025 election cycle, where existing metro mayors (West of England, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough) face re-election, and new combined authorities (Greater Lincolnshire, Hull and East Yorkshire) hold their first elections, as confirmed by devolution deals enacted in 2023 and 2024.

Local Transport Authorities Covered by Each Metro Mayor

Metro mayors oversee transport policy across multiple LTAs within their combined authority boundaries. Below are the LTAs for each:

- West of England Combined Authority: Bristol City Council, South Gloucestershire Council, Bath and North East Somerset Council.
- Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority: Cambridgeshire County Council, Peterborough City Council.
- Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority: Lincolnshire County Council.
- Hull and East Yorkshire Combined Authority: Hull City Council, East Riding of Yorkshire Council.

Bus Lanes and Motorcycle Access

Using the 2022 Bus Lane Stocktake (https://wiki.mag-uk.org/images/6/65/Bus_Lane_Stocktake_2022.pdf) and supplemented by local council data, here's the analysis of bus lanes and motorcycle access for each LTA:

West of England Combined Authority

- Bristol City Council:
 - Bus Lanes: Yes, extensive network (2022 Stocktake confirms 159 LTAs with bus lanes, including Bristol).
 - Motorcycle Access: Yes, permitted since at least 2009, per FOI data from Bristol City Council, with no recent policy reversal noted.
- South Gloucestershire Council:
 - Bus Lanes: Yes, present in urban areas like Yate and Thornbury (2022 Stocktake).

- Motorcycle Access: Yes, allowed since 1996, per Motorcycle Action Group (MAG) records, with signage typically indicating access.
- Bath and North East Somerset Council:
 - Bus Lanes: Yes, notably in Bath city centre (2022 Stocktake).
 - Motorcycle Access: Likely yes, historical access since 1995 per MAG, though signage should be checked for current status.

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority

- Cambridgeshire County Council:
 - Bus Lanes: Yes, in Cambridge and surrounding areas (2022 Stocktake).
 - Motorcycle Access: Unclear, no explicit confirmation in 2022 data or recent council documents; local signage varies, and access is not universally permitted.
- Peterborough City Council:
 - Bus Lanes: Yes, along key routes like Bourges Boulevard (2022 Stocktake).
 - Motorcycle Access: Unclear, 2022 Stocktake lacks specifics, and council policy does not explicitly allow or deny.

Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority

- Lincolnshire County Council:
 - Bus Lanes: Yes, in Lincoln and some market towns (2022 Stocktake).
 - Motorcycle Access: Unclear, no clear policy in 2022 data; likely restricted unless signage indicates otherwise, typical for rural counties.

Hull and East Yorkshire Combined Authority

- Hull City Council:
 - Bus Lanes: Yes, along major roads like Ferensway (2022 Stocktake).
 - Motorcycle Access: Yes, permitted since 1998 per MAG, with no recent changes noted.
- East Riding of Yorkshire Council:
 - Bus Lanes: Yes, in urban areas like Beverley (2022 Stocktake).
 - Motorcycle Access: Unclear, 2022 data does not confirm; likely restricted unless specified by signage.

Summary Table

Metro Mayor	LTA	Has Bus Lanes	Allows Motorcycle Access
West of England	Bristol City Council	Yes	Yes
	South Gloucestershire Council	Yes	Yes
	Bath and North East Somerset	Yes	Likely Yes
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough	Cambridgeshire County Council	Yes	Unclear
	Peterborough City Council	Yes	Unclear
Greater Lincolnshire	Lincolnshire County Council	Yes	Unclear
Hull and East Yorkshire	Hull City Council	Yes	Yes
	East Riding of Yorkshire Council	Yes	Unclear

Notes and Verification

- **Confirmed Data:** Bristol, South Gloucestershire, and Hull have clear motorcycle access policies from historical records.
- **Unclear Cases:** Cambridgeshire, Peterborough, Lincolnshire, and East Riding lack motorcycle access.
- **Resource Use:** The 2022 Stocktake provided a baseline (159 LTAs with bus lanes, 56 allowing motorcycles), but LTA-specific policies required cross-checking with MAG Wiki and council websites.
- **Caveat:** Policies may have evolved since 2022. For precise, current details, especially in “unclear” cases, check local council transport pages or signage before 1 May 2025.

Focus for MAG members and motorcyclists in these locations

With written evidence from the motorcycles in bus lanes consultation outcome (November 2024) bus lane access can be made a relevant election question. For the West of England Mayoralty this needs to be about confirming bus lane access as the default policy across all the constituent local authorities. For the other three this is about securing that policy for the first time.

MAG Central will write formally to all the candidates for these positions but we encourage all members to ask the candidates directly for themselves so that they are all aware that this is very much a live and relevant issue.

Please also take the opportunity to ask the candidates to sign and promote the petition on default bus lane access. <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/712763>

Bus lanes have least relevance in Lincolnshire so widen the debate to other motorcycling issues such as road surfaces and theft.