



Citizens UK West Yorkshire Mayoral Assembly

7pm | Thursday 29th April 2021 | Online

About Citizens UK

Citizens UK is a people power alliance of diverse local communities working together for the common good.

Using Community Organising, our mission is to develop local leaders, strengthen local organisations which are the lifeblood of their communities, and make change.

What is the Citizens UK Assembly West Yorkshire Mayoral Assembly?

Our Mayoral Assembly is not a public hustings. Hustings are open to the general public, where attendees ask questions from the floor. We recognise the important role that hustings have to play in our democratic culture.

However, this event is a Citizens UK Accountability Assembly - a private event for our member institutions and invited guests. There are no spontaneous questions from the floor as our democratic processes are already complete. Instead, representatives from various communities and organisations will share personal testimony and proposals for action based on listening campaigns we have run over the months or years leading up to the Assembly.

Accountability Assemblies give our communities a platform and an opportunity to win commitments from decision-makers, building relationships with them on specific asks from our agenda. They are chaired by community leaders from our member organisations.

Sometimes accountability assemblies are run during national, regional and local elections, where we develop and present our own priority issues to electoral

candidates. Electoral candidates that are invited must meet impartial criteria, set by a Leadership Team of community leaders.

We have been running accountability assemblies for elections like this since 2000. We also liaise with the Charity Commission and the Electoral Commission, ensuring we remain fully compliant with charity and electoral rules.

Our basis for candidate invitations

There are seven candidates standing for Mayor for the West Yorkshire Combined Authority. They are (in alphabetical order):

- Waj ALLI, Reform UK
- Tracy BRABIN, Labour and Co-operative Party
- Bob BUXTON, Yorkshire Party
- Andrew COOPER, Green Party
- Stuart GOLTON, Liberal Democrats
- Therese HIRST, English Democrats – “Putting England First!”
- Matt ROBINSON, The Conservative Party Candidate

For impartial reasons, we have invited two of the Mayoral candidates to our Assembly: Tracy Brabin and Matt Robinson.

These candidates were chosen after looking at how parties have performed in recent elections. In general, a substantial majority of seats at every level of local and national government which are subject to election by voters within West Yorkshire constituencies have been won in recent elections by Labour and Conservative party candidates.

Our schedule is primarily made up of contributions from leaders in our member institutions and so we have taken account of the practical necessity to limit candidate numbers.

The aim of our Assembly is to seek commitments from the office of the Mayor of West Yorkshire and to build our relationship with them; we have therefore concluded the candidates' likely success in the election, judged on objective considerations, is a legitimate and relevant basis for the invitations.