

# Election of a Mayor

for the Tees Valley  
Combined Authority



Thursday 2 May 2024

**Your guide to the candidates,  
the election and how to vote**

Contains important information for all voters



## Introduction

On Thursday 2 May 2024 there will be an election for a Mayor of the Tees Valley Combined Authority.

People who are registered to vote in local elections for any of the constituent councils Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar & Cleveland or Stockton-on-Tees are eligible to vote in this election.

I am required by law to send this booklet to every person entitled to vote at the election. It includes election addresses from Mayoral Candidates. You will also find information about how to fill in your ballot paper and how we calculate the result.

There are three candidates standing in the election for a Mayor of the Tees Valley Combined Authority. They will be listed alphabetically on the yellow ballot paper.

Each candidate was given the chance to put an election address in this booklet. Three candidates chose to do so, and each candidate was required to pay £885 towards the booklet's cost. Lots were drawn to decide the order in which the election addresses appear in the booklet.

To find out more about the Mayoral election visit  
[www.stockton.gov.uk](http://www.stockton.gov.uk)

A copy of this booklet can be accessed at  
[www.tvcaro.co.uk](http://www.tvcaro.co.uk)

**Mike Greene**  
Combined Authority Returning Officer

### This booklet contains

- Information about how to vote at this election and how the result is calculated
- Election addresses from Mayoral candidates
- Information about the Tees Valley Combined Authority
- Information about the role of a Mayor of the Tees Valley Combined Authority
- Contact details for the Local Electoral Services Offices.

# Mayor of the Tees Valley Combined Authority

## **What does the Mayor do?**

The Mayor works alongside the five Tees Valley Local Authorities to drive economic growth, create jobs and transform Tees Valley.  
The Mayor has responsibilities and influence over:

### **Transport**

Improve and invest in our region's transport network, including roads, rail and air

### **Education, employment and skills**

Improve and promote education and skills, career and work opportunities for young people and adults

### **Business Growth & Investment**

Encourage inward investment and the creation of jobs in the region, and support its businesses to help them grow

### **Place & Communities**

Invest in place to develop our region's town centres, communities and industrial areas

### **Culture and Tourism**

Promote culture and tourism in the region

### **Devolution**

Continue to secure funding and powers from central Government

### **Hartlepool Development Corporation**

Chair of the Hartlepool Development Corporation

### **Middlesbrough Development Corporation**

Chair of the Middlesbrough Development Corporation

### **South Tees Development Corporation**

Chair of the South Tees Development Corporation





### What is the Tees Valley?

Tees Valley describes the area covering Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar & Cleveland and Stockton-on-Tees.

The five councils have been working in partnership for over 25 years, however the individual identities of the separate towns and communities remain important.

### What is the Tees Valley Combined Authority?

The Combined Authority is a body, set up by law to lead the economic development of Tees Valley which is chaired by an elected Mayor. It is a partnership of five authorities; Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar & Cleveland and Stockton-on-Tees, working closely with the business community and other partners to make local decisions to support the growth of the economy. An elected Tees Valley Mayor and Combined Authority deliver powers and responsibilities previously carried out by central Government.

The Tees Valley Combined Authority is part of a group which also includes the Hartlepool Development Corporation, Middlesbrough Development Corporation, South Tees Development Corporation and Teesside International Airport.

### What are Mayoral Development Corporations?

South Tees Development Corporation is charged with overseeing the regeneration of Teesworks, the 4,500-acre industrial zone south of the river Tees, while Hartlepool and Middlesbrough Development Corporations have been formed with the goal of transforming the town centres through driving investment.

## What is the difference between the Combined Authority and local councils?

Local councils are responsible for delivering local services, such as children's services, social care, refuse collection, libraries, street cleaning, etc.

The Tees Valley Combined Authority is focused on the economic growth of the wider Tees Valley. Its powers and funding come from central Government, not from local councils.

## Why do we have a Tees Valley Mayor?

In 2015, local council leaders agreed a devolution deal with ministers to transfer powers, funding and responsibilities from central Government to our local area. The Government said that this was only possible if an elected Mayor is publicly accountable for decisions; working alongside the existing councils and other partners.

## How the mayor is elected

In the Election for a Mayor of the Tees Valley Combined Authority on 2 May 2024, there are three candidates and you have one vote. The candidate who receives the most votes will be elected.

### How You Can Vote

Vote for a candidate using your yellow ballot paper

- You have three choices for Mayor
- Vote for only one candidate by putting a cross in the box next to your choice

### Where You Can Vote

#### At your polling station

Before 2 May 2024 you will be sent a poll card which includes details of where your polling station is. You do not need to take the poll card with you to vote (unless you are an anonymous elector), but it will help staff. You can only vote at the polling station stated on this card. You will need to show appropriate photographic ID to be able to vote at a polling station. For more information please visit [electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID](http://electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID)

If you do not have any of the documents listed, you can apply for a voter authority certificate at [voter-authority-certificate.service.gov.uk](http://voter-authority-certificate.service.gov.uk)

The deadline for Voter Authority Certificate applications is 5pm on 24 April 2024 to be able to use it in this election.



### By Post

If you wish to apply to vote by post, you can apply at [www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote](http://www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote). Complete the online form fully. If you don't have internet access, your local Electoral Services Office can help.

New applications for a postal vote must be completed by 5pm on Wednesday 17 April 2024.

If you are a registered postal voter, your ballot paper will be sent to you about two weeks before polling day. You must post it in the envelope provided so that it is delivered to your Electoral Services Office by 10pm on 2 May 2024.

If you have not posted your ballot paper and postal voting statement in time, you can deliver it by hand on polling day. You can hand in your own postal pack and up to 5 others, on completion of a form. This can be at any polling station in your electoral area or to your Electoral Services Office. You should follow the instructions in the postal ballot pack carefully.

### By Proxy

If you are registered to vote but are unable to get to the polling station on polling day 2 May 2024, you can appoint someone you trust to vote on your behalf. If you would like to vote by proxy, your completed application form must be received by your local Electoral Services Office no later than 5pm on Wednesday 24 April 2024. You can apply at [www.gov.uk/apply-proxy-vote](http://www.gov.uk/apply-proxy-vote). Complete the online form fully. If you don't have internet access, your local Electoral Services Office can help.

The person you appoint as a proxy must be over 18 years, be registered to vote at this election and must not be a proxy for more than four electors, no more than two of which can be registered in the UK.

If you have applied to have someone vote on your behalf (Proxy), make sure that they know the candidate you wish to vote for.



### What to expect at the polling station

On 2 May 2024 your local polling station is open between 7am and 10pm for you to cast your vote.

You should aim to arrive at the polling station in plenty of time. By law, if you are not in the polling station or in a queue outside waiting for your ballot paper by 10pm, you won't be able to vote. When you arrive at the polling station you will be asked for your name, address and photographic identification. Staff will check you are on the register and then give you a ballot paper. They can help you understand how to fill it out too.

### Additional Support

There are 'tactile voting devices' and large print versions of the ballot paper at all polling stations to help people with visual impairments. Polling station staff are trained and will be able to offer additional assistance to voters.

### Outside the Polling Station

Supporters of the candidates (called "Tellers") may stand outside the polling station and ask you your name and address. Tellers help their parties to identify supporters who haven't yet voted. That way, those that haven't voted can be contacted and encouraged to vote. You don't have to speak to tellers if you don't want to.

### The Election Addresses

Please note that the content of each of the following pages relating to the candidates is the responsibility of the candidates themselves. The views expressed are theirs alone and cannot be attributed to the Combined Authority Returning Officer.

#### **Mike Greene**

Combined Authority Returning Officer

# Chris McEwan

For Tees Valley Mayor



I was forged in the Tees Valley, it made me who I am.

My Mum lives in Redcar and worked to help some of the most vulnerable young people in the UK to improve their lives by getting them into work.

I followed her example and have dedicated my working life to public service to make our region the best it can be.

Working for over 30 years in the NHS making sure that everyone could access healthcare in their communities. I saw what difference good leadership makes through my role in improving services locally and fighting to get services that local people deserve.

As a Councillor I took on the task of growing Darlington's economy, spreading wealth and creating opportunities for people to seize.

I've lived and worked in the Tees Valley, brought up my family in the Tees Valley and represented Tees Valley communities. I want our region to prosper, and I know as Mayor I will make that happen.

**Chris McEwan**

Labour Candidate for Tees Valley Mayor

**Vote Labour**  
and co-operative

Prepared by Stephen Harker at Elm Court, Tower Road, Darlington, DL3 6RU on behalf of Chris McEwan, 8 Millrace Close, Darlington, DL1 3SQ.

**THURSDAY 2 MAY**

## My Plan for Tees Valley

### **Bring back free parking to breathe life into struggling town centres**



I'll bring back free town centre parking to help families that are struggling with the Conservative cost of living crisis. I'll give councils more money to support small businesses.

### **Introduce a £2 fare cap on trains and buses**

Like other Labour Mayors I'll bring buses under public control, introduce a £2 fare cap for all public transport and make it free for under-18s travelling to work or school. I'll join up our transport system, fix our broken roads and, of course, I'll continue to support the airport.

### **Help local people to get well paid jobs**

I'll work to create thousands of new jobs by supporting new green industries. To make sure local people can make the most of those opportunities, I'll introduce a Guaranteed Skills and Employment Review to everyone at ages 16, 24 and 50.

### **Invest in CCTV to make our streets safe**

After 14 years of Conservative cuts the Police are spread too thin. I'll invest in state of the art CCTV, like Labour have already done in Darlington. I'll support councils to install proper streetlights, so people can feel safe again and the police have the evidence they need to put criminals behind bars.

### **Be a Mayor you can trust**

I will be the Mayor you can trust to deliver on your priorities and work together with our communities, local businesses and charities to create a region where everybody has the opportunity to succeed.

### **GET IN TOUCH**

**f** [McEwanforMayor](#)

**e** [chris@mcewanformayor.co.uk](mailto:chris@mcewanformayor.co.uk)

**x** [@ChrisMcEwan11](#)

**t** 07947 016598

# BEN HOUCHEN: A RECORD OF DELIVERY, A PROMISE OF MORE.

This year's Mayoral election will be held on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May, **and it is more important than ever that you use your vote to continue the progress we're making across our region.**

Over the past 7 years, I've done what I said I'd do and have delivered on the promises I've made.

From saving our airport from closure, bringing steelmaking back to Teesside, securing thousands of jobs on the former Redcar Steelworks Site to investing in our transport infrastructure, **we are turning things around, so let's stick with the plan that is seeing jobs and investment flood into our area.**



## A RECORD OF DELIVERY: WHAT WE'VE ACHIEVED



More progress at our airport as we achieve record passenger numbers, new holiday flights and new business investment at our £200m business park.



Thousands of jobs at Teesworks and new investment secured in offshore wind, carbon capture and hydrogen.



Steelmaking returns to Teesside with plans for a new electric arc furnace by British Steel currently underway.



HM Treasury in Darlington with 800 workers in post, 80% recruited locally, and another 1,200 on the way.



Upgrading our railway stations with hundreds of millions of pounds and investing in our transport infrastructure



Securing investment at our Freeport, with the Teesside Freeport officially the UK's most successful - having secured £1.1bn of investment and 2,150 jobs.

## A PROMISE OF MORE: WHAT WE'LL DO NEXT

- 1 Build a new state-of-the-art hospital to replace the crumbling North Tees Hospital.



2 Secure flights to Malaga and Tenerife direct from Teesside International Airport.



3 Introduce a £1 bus travel cap for under 21s to help our young people access new opportunities.



4 Provide free swimming for children under 11 across Teesside, Darlington and Hartlepool.



5 No Mayoral Tax for another 4 years to keep more of your own money in your pocket.

**MY PROMISE TO YOU:**

**"I'LL BUILD"  
THE NEW  
HOSPITAL  
TEESSIDE  
DESERVES.**

North Tees Hospital is not fit for purpose and our incredibly hardworking and dedicated NHS staff are being let down by the buildings they have to operate in.

That is why, if re-elected, I have promised to replace North Tees and build Teesside the hospital it deserves.

I will not leave this issue to politicians in Westminster or in our local councils to fix for any longer.

I'm proud of the progress we have made as a region, but the job isn't done yet.

It is now time for the next chapter, ensuring that everything we've achieved, built and delivered is felt by local people and their families.

We must stick to the plan and keep going.

Back Ben Houchen on May 2<sup>nd</sup> to secure more jobs, investment and a new hospital for Teesside, Darlington & Hartlepool.

# £25 Million A Year to FIGHT CHILD POVERTY

Elect me as your Mayor on 2nd May and I will make fighting child poverty my primary mission.

Virtually any way you measure it, the North East is the poorest region in the UK. And the Tees Valley is the poorest part of the North East.

That's what we've got to show for a century of unbroken Labour and Conservative rule.

I will invest £25 million per year in a revolutionary Early Years Support Programme, to help those who need it most: the nearly 40% of children and young people growing up in poverty in our region.

The programme will establish a network of hubs, to coordinate local voluntary groups and provide advice on accessing benefits, subsidised transport, training and other vital information.

The programme will also supply all newborns in the Tees Valley with a free Baby Box: a supply of clothes, bedding and other vital things for new families to use during the crucial first few months of a baby's life.

## Making Adult Education Work

Simon Thorley will introduce Individual Learning Grants. Instead of the government telling you what you should study, you'll be able to decide for yourself and get the funding to do so, from the Adult Education Budget.

## It's All About The Buses

As mayor, Simon Thorley will bring buses under public control and oversee an expansion of routes and service frequency. He will make bus travel free for all under 18s and introduce automatic daily and weekly capping.

'THIS IS FAR AND AWAY THE BIGGEST SOCIAL ISSUE IMPACTING THE TEES VALLEY'

Simon Thorley  
[simonthorley.com](http://simonthorley.com)



'We were promised jobs, growth and progress, but we are poorer now than in 2008 let alone 2017.'

Grandiose schemes and mega projects do little to improve most people's lives. You won't see me in a hard hat and hi-vis at a building site: I'll be getting on with the real job.'

Simon Thorley



'Simon's priorities – regulated buses, educational grants and early years support – will bring real levelling up, as opposed to areas bidding against each other.'

Chris Jones, Parliamentary Candidate for Redcar



'Simon's bus policy will be a game changer for so many of us in the region. I am pleased to support a candidate with ideas that put people's needs first.'

Jemma Joy, Parliamentary Candidate for Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland



'Simon represents change and positive ideas for the Tees Valley. We need this after years of continued poverty and inequality under Labour and the Conservatives.'

Mohammed Waqas, Parliamentary Candidate for Middlesbrough and Thornaby East

Simon Thorley  
[simonthorley.com](http://simonthorley.com)

Liberal Democrats



## ENERGY, INTEGRITY AND VISION

VOTE Simon Thorley To Make A Difference

# Contact Details

## For the local electoral services offices

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### **Darlington Borough Council**

Email: elections@darlington.gov.uk  
Tel: 01325 406444

### **Hartlepool Borough Council**

Email: elections@hartlepool.gov.uk  
Tel: 01429 523088

### **Middlesbrough Borough Council**

Email: elections@middlesbrough.gov.uk  
Tel: 01642 729771

### **Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council**

Email: electoral.registration@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk  
Tel: 01642 774774

### **Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council**

Email: electoral@stockton.gov.uk  
Tel: 01642 526196

If you would like this information in a different format, please ask us. If you require any further information, please contact: The Elections Helpline on 01642 526196 Visit: [www.stockton.gov.uk](http://www.stockton.gov.uk)  
Email: electoral@stockton.gov.uk

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