



TEES VALLEY
COMBINED
AUTHORITY

TEES VALLEY MAYOR

THE ELECTION OF A TEES VALLEY MAYOR

THURSDAY 6 MAY 2021

**YOUR GUIDE TO THE CANDIDATES,
THE ELECTION AND HOW TO VOTE**

Contains important information for all voters



Introduction

On Thursday 6 May there will be an election of a Mayor for 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 2 candidates standing in the election of the Mayor for the Tees Valley Combined Authority. They will be listed alphabetically on the salmon ballot paper.

Jessie Joe Jacobs

Labour and Co-operative Party

Ben Houchen

Conservatives

Each candidate was given the chance to put an election address in this booklet. 2 candidates chose to do so, and each candidate was required to pay £750 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. A copy of this booklet can be accessed at www.tvcaro.co.uk.

Julie Danks
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 the Mayor
- Contact details for the Local Electoral Services Offices.



The Tees Valley Mayor

What will 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

Homes & 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

South Tees Development Corporation

Chair of the South Tees Development Corporation

The Tees Valley Mayor

What is 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 20 years, however the individual identities of the separate towns and communities remain important.

Almost nine out of ten people who have jobs in Tees Valley also live in the region, and so individuals, communities, towns and businesses across the five boroughs are tightly linked economically.

What is the Tees Valley Combined Authority?

The Mayor chairs the Combined Authority, a body, set up by law to lead the economic development of Tees Valley. 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. The 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 owns the South Tees Development Corporation and Teesside International Airport.

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 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 the Mayor of the Tees Valley Combined Authority on 6 May there are two candidates and you have one vote. The candidate who receives the most votes will be elected.



How You Can Vote

Vote using your salmon ballot paper

Vote for only one candidate by putting a cross in the box next to your choice.



Where You Can Vote

What To Expect At The Polling Station

At your polling station

Before 6 May 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.

Applying to vote by post or proxy

If you wish to apply to vote by post or appoint someone you trust to vote on your behalf as your proxy, download a form from: <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/voting-person-post-or-proxy/voting-post>, complete it fully and return it to the electoral registration office at your local council. If you don't have internet access your electoral registration office can help. New applications for a postal vote must be returned to your electoral registration office by 5pm on Tuesday 20 April and new applications for a proxy vote by 5pm on Tuesday 27 April.

By Post

If you're a registered postal voter, your ballot paper will be sent to you about two weeks before polling day. You must return it so that it is delivered to your electoral registration office by 10pm on 6th May in the envelope provided.

If you have not posted your ballot paper and postal voting statement in time, you can deliver it by hand on polling day. This can be at any polling station in your local authority area or to your electoral registration 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 6 May 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 Tuesday 27 April. You can download an application form from:

<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/voting-person-post-or-proxy/voting-proxy>.

The person you appoint as a proxy must be over 18 years and be registered to vote at this election.

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

On 6 May your local polling station is open between 7am and 10pm for you to cast your votes.

We would ask all electors to follow the public health guidelines and to wear a face covering, use the hand sanitiser and maintain a safe distance from others in the polling station. You are welcome to use your own pen or pencil, and for these elections it's encouraged that you do so, although pencils will be available.

You should aim to arrive at the polling station in plenty of time. By law, if you're 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'll be asked for your name and address. Staff will check you're 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.

**Julie Danks Combined Authority
Returning Officer**





Labour and Co-operative Party



WHO IS JESSIE JOE JACOBS?

A compassionate and experienced leader, with an eighteen-year track record, delivering change at a local and national level including...

- A WAY OUT women and young people's charity founder.
 - Developed projects that tackled poverty, improved health and wellbeing, created businesses, improved skills and reduced unemployment.
 - Created a food hub network.
 - Led an £80m health and employment consortium.
- Championed high streets, small business, creatives, young workers and the £1.2billion North East food and drink industry.
 - Won awards such as 'Sunday Times Social Entrepreneur of the Year'.

WHY VOTE JESSIE FOR MAYOR?

To give our communities hope again for a better future. Jessie will tackle the current issues evident across the Town Centres and High Streets of the Tees Valley, turning the situation around, using her breadth of experience to secure jobs, and ensure our places and people thrive.

TO CREATE 56,000 NEW JOBS

'Net Zero Green Port' - 20,000 Green jobs - Developing space for electric car battery production, hydrogen and wind turbine manufacturing and a publicly owned solar farm.

'Tech Futures' - 10,000 Tech jobs – Via hubs in Stockton, Darlington and Middlesbrough and £20million investment. In 2019, the UK tech sector grew more than China or USA. Let's be the industrial tech centre of Europe.

'I Love Tees' - 26,000 Culture and Tourism jobs. Tourism is growing faster than the rest of the economy. We'll become an exciting visitor destination through £30million investment into local leisure businesses, world class attractions such as a VR theme park, and a steel heritage museum.

TO DEVELOP THRIVING PLACES TO LIVE AND VISIT

'Tees Travel' - More busses and cycle routes – We'll create a well-connected, affordable, transport system to get people where they need to be.

'Homes for Heroes' - More homes for key workers and carers. Working with partners to provide quality, lower carbon, affordable homes. We'll give high priority to carers and key workers. Those who look after others deserve to be looked after with a good home.

'No More Empty Shops' - Breathing new life into High Streets by turning empty shops into useful and exciting spaces for business, learning and leisure.

TO BACK OUR PEOPLE TO GET ON

'Get On Scheme' - Support to start new businesses or re-train – People will be given the support they need to get on in life, from starting a business to retraining in a new industry.

'Green Futures' – 10'000 people trained in green jobs - Every house in the UK needs to be fitted with low carbon technology. We need an army of workers to do this, so we'll provide training in green jobs for local people.

'No One Left Behind' – Set up a child poverty commission and digital inclusion investment to ensure no one is left behind.

This statement was prepared by Nigel Cooke (appointed agent for Jessie Joe Jacobs) at 7 Queen Anne Terrace, Stockton-on-Tees, TS18 5HS on behalf of Jessie who resides in the borough of Stockton-on-Tees.



A 10-year plan and new flights at our airport. We've secured the future of our airport - attracting new investment through our terminal. Now we're bringing new flights across the UK and top international holiday destinations with Ryanair



Unlocking opportunities for jobs with a freeport. We've secured the UK's biggest freeport - thanks to Ben Houchen. That means we can cut red tape, attract investment and help to create more good quality local jobs for local workers.



New local jobs at Treasury North and Trade Hub. Treasury North and Trade Hub are coming to our region thanks to Ben's campaign for jobs. The investment creates skilled, local jobs and means big decisions will be made by local people.



Local jobs and new investment at Teesworks. Diggers are in the ground to breathe new life into our former steelworks. Teesworks will create thousands of good quality, sustainable, local jobs across Teesside, Darlington and Hartlepool.

We're making real progress. But what happens next comes down to you.

Four years ago, local people across Teesside, Darlington and Hartlepool elected me as our first-ever Mayor. Since then, my team and I have worked flat-out to repay your trust and get things done.

- We saved our airport.** Now we're bringing new flights to more destinations and upgrading facilities to attract investment through our terminal.
- We've secured the UK's biggest freeport.** Cutting red tape to attract new businesses and helping local employers to grow and create new local jobs for local workers.
- And we're transforming our former steelworks site.** Teesworks will bring thousands of quality, skilled and sustainable jobs for local people.

So on May 6, your vote will decide whether we stick with the plan that's working. Or whether Labour take us back to square one.

With your support, we'll introduce more new flights and secure the future of our airport with my 10-year plan. We'll finish the transformation at Teesworks, creating up to 20,000 local jobs. We'll deliver the Teesworks Skills Academy so more people can train up and access jobs on the site. And we'll secure more investment for every part of our region.

More jobs. More flights. More investment. On May 6, vote for me and together we'll make it happen.



ON MAY 6 VOTE BEN HOUCHE

Contact Details For The Local Electoral Services Offices

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

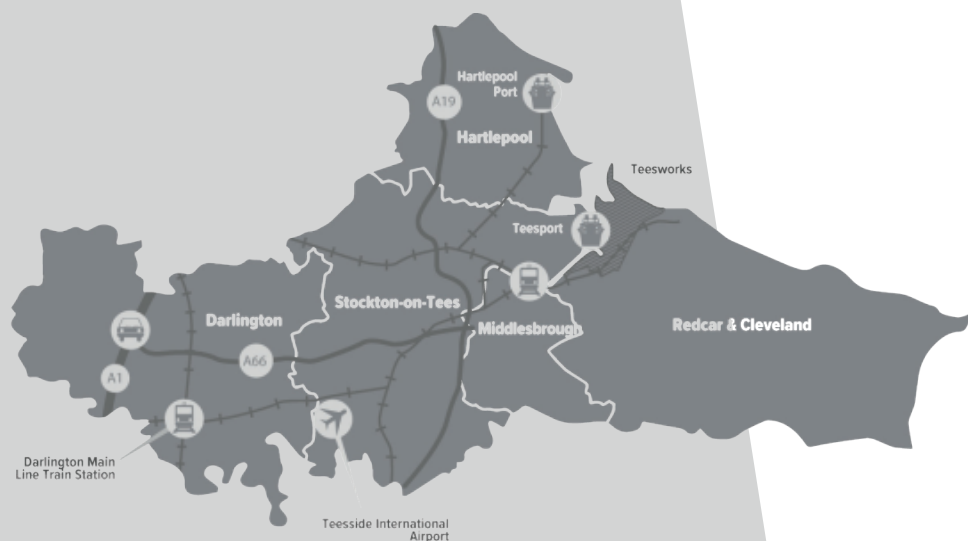
Email: elections@middlesbrough.gov.uk
Tel: 01642 729771

Redcar 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





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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

Email: electoral@stockton.gov.uk

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