

# THE ELECTION OF A TEES VALLEY MAYOR



**THURSDAY 4 MAY 2017**

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

**Contains important information for all voters**

# INTRODUCTION

On Thursday 4 May there will be an election of a Mayor for the Tees Valley. This is a new role, leading the work of the Tees Valley Combined Authority.

The Combined Authority brings together the areas of the five constituent Councils of Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar & Cleveland and Stockton-On-Tees, to work in partnership to promote the economic development of the Tees Valley as a whole.

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. 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)

The election of a Tees Valley Mayor – four candidates are standing. They will be listed alphabetically on the white ballot paper.

- FOOTE-WOOD, Chris                      Liberal Democrat
- HOUCHEN, Ben                              Conservative Party Candidate
- JEFFREY, Sue                                Labour and Co-operative Party
- TENNANT, John David Edward        UK Independence Party (UKIP)

Each candidate was given the chance to put an election address in this booklet. Four 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.

David Bond  
Combined Authority Returning Officer

# THE TEES VALLEY MAYOR

## What will the Mayor do?

The Mayor will work alongside the five Tees Valley Councils to improve the economy of the area, bring in new investment and create jobs.

The Mayor will have responsibilities and influence over:

### Transport

- Improve the area's train services by having more, faster and better trains and stations
- Support better bus services
- Invest in road and rail infrastructure

### Skills & Education

- Encourage more apprenticeships
- Improve education for young people and adults
- Help people to secure good quality jobs

### Business Growth & Investment

- Support businesses to help them grow
- Bring new companies into the area
- Revitalise the area's town centres and industrial areas
- Encourage innovation, carbon reduction and new energy

### Homes & Communities

- Invest in good quality homes
- Help create successful, vibrant communities

### Culture and Tourism

- Promote Tees Valley as a great place to live, work and visit
- Invest in our cultural institutions and events

### Devolution

- Secure a better deal from central government
- Ensure a strong voice for the Tees Valley
- Make more decisions about the area here, not in London





## What is the Tees Valley

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

The five councils have been working in partnership for over 20 years. People don't generally describe themselves as being from "the Tees Valley", and the individual identities of the separate towns and communities remain important. But the Tees Valley describes an area that

works as a connected economic area. 90% of Tees Valley's working population have jobs within the area, and 65,000 cross a council boundary to work. So communities across the Tees Valley depend on the success of the area as a whole.

## What is the Tees Valley Combined Authority

The Mayor will chair the Combined Authority: a new body, set up by law to lead the economic development of the Tees Valley area. It is a partnership of five authorities, working with the business community and other partners.

By setting up this new body, the Tees Valley is able to deliver powers and responsibilities previously carried out by central government. There are similar bodies in other areas of the country which have secured devolution, including Greater Manchester, Merseyside and the West Midlands, who will also be electing a Mayor on 4th May.

## Does this mean that the individual Councils will merge?

No, the Local Councils will still be responsible for delivering local services, such as children's services, social care, refuse collection, libraries, street cleaning, etc. The Tees Valley Combined Authority is focussed on economic growth of the wider Tees Valley area. Its new powers come from central Government, not from the local Councils.

## Why do we need a Tees Valley Mayor?

Local council leaders negotiated a devolution deal with Ministers, to transfer powers, funding and responsibilities from central government to our local area. The government has said that this is only possible if an elected Mayor is publicly accountable for decisions; working alongside the existing councils and other partners.

## Will having a Tees Valley Mayor cost more?

The devolution deal brings in new funding. The direct costs of the Mayor will be met from this additional funding, without any additional cost to the local Council Taxpayers. They will be supported by the Tees Valley Combined Authority from within established budgets. The Mayor's allowance is being established by an independent remuneration panel.

Find out more about the Tees Valley Mayor at [www.teesvalleymayor.co.uk](http://www.teesvalleymayor.co.uk)

## HOW THE MAYOR IS ELECTED

If a candidate gets more than half of all of the first choice votes, they are pronounced the winner and elected the Tees Valley Mayor, for the next three years.

If no candidate gets more than half of the first choice votes, the 2 candidates with the most first choices (or 3 or more candidates if there's an equality of votes) go into a second round. All other candidates are eliminated. The eliminated candidates' ballot papers are reviewed and any second choice votes for the remaining candidates are added to their totals.

The candidate with the highest number of combined first and second choice votes is elected Mayor.

## HOW YOU CAN VOTE

Vote for the Mayor using your white ballot paper

- You have 2 choices for Mayor
- Vote once (X) in column A for your first choice
- Vote once (X) in column B for your second choice
- For your second choice to be valid it must be different from your first choice
- If you only make a second choice, your vote will not be counted
- You do not have to make a second choice
- Marking a second choice doesn't however reduce the chances of your first choice candidate being successful





## WHERE YOU CAN VOTE

### At your polling station

Before 4 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 [aboutmyvote.co.uk](https://www.aboutmyvote.co.uk), 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 18 April and new applications for a proxy vote by 5pm on Tuesday 25 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 4th 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 have applied to have someone vote on your behalf (Proxy), make sure that they know the candidates you wish to vote for.

## WHAT TO EXPECT AT THE POLLING STATION

On 4 May your local polling station is open between 7am and 10pm for you to cast your votes.

You should aim to arrive 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 stations also have accessible booths to accommodate wheelchairs.

### 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, and if needed offered help – like transport to the polling station. 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.

David Bond  
Combined Authority Returning  
Officer



# WORLD LEADERSHIP FOR THE TEES VALLEY! **Says Chris FOOTE WOOD**



*Chris Foote Wood  
LibDem candidate for  
Tees Valley Mayor*

**Chris says:**  
**Build ICONIC SUPERBRIDGE!**  
**Create METRO RAIL LOOP!**  
**Make TEESPORT a FREEPORT!**  
**Invest in GREEN ENERGY!**  
**Create 1,000s of JOBS!**  
**Make Tees Valley**  
**A CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE**  
**and A VALLEY OF CULTURE!**

***My Aim: Global Leadership in Five Target Technologies***

## **1. Advanced Transport Technology**

Hyperloop test track for Tees Valley: World's first supersonic travel on earth. 800mph pilot track could be here!

## **2. Chemicals**

Build on our established industry base and ever-advancing developments in this field, including bio-tech.

## **3. Medical Research**

Funding for medical research to attract the best brains from UK and the world. Invest in skills and jobs for the future.

## **4. Green Energy**

The future lies in wind, wave and solar power for our continuing energy needs. We must reduce our dependence on fossil fuels, especially imported oil and gas, while creating jobs for the future in developing green energy.

## **5. Advanced Metals**

Working with industry, providing Enterprise Zone and investment incentives, and investing in research with universities and the training for our students and workers. Eighteen months after closure, Redcar's SSI steelworks site is still a derelict, rusting hulk. There are companies ready to invest. Let's get things moving!

***Chris Foote Wood - the Man who Gets Things Done!***



# Chris's new road/rail **SUPERBRIDGE** will be Tees **ICON!** with **METRO LOOP**

## **I'M THE MAN FOR THE JOB**

*says LibDem candidate*

### **Chris Foote Wood**

“Being Mayor of Tees Valley is a big job and I am the man to do it. I'm very well qualified - 40 years a councillor, six years as **Council Leader**. Also, vice chair of the (all-party) North East Assembly, and the first LibDem to represent the North East on the EU Committee of the Regions. I have also held senior positions in other regional and national organisations, including the Association of District Councils and the Local Government Association. I've had **years of practical, hands-on experience of making and implementing decisions**. I have negotiated with government ministers and senior civil servants. I know how to save money, cut through red tape and **GET THINGS DONE!** I'll be your **FULL-TIME MAYOR - Chris Foote Wood**

**For a DYNAMIC Tees Valley Mayor VOTE**

# **Chris FOOTE-WOOD**

**Make Chris your First Choice on May 4th**



*Chris at his proposed new Tees crossing near South Bank*

## **“Anyone but Labour”**

The majority of Tees Valley voters do NOT want a Labour Mayor. Chris Foote Wood, second to Labour in Middlesbrough in 2010, is the candidate to beat Labour in this election. **Labour has failed the Tees Valley** For decades, Labour has been in almost total control of our local councils. **Corbyn is losing Labour voters** Jeremy Corbyn is taking Labour in completely the wrong direction. **Labour monopoly?** We don't need yet another Labour politician to add to the **five** we already have. We need more balance!



*Prepared by Ian Barnes (agent) 5 Lauriston Close Darlington DL3 8TU on behalf of Chris Foote-Wood (LibDem candidate) 30 Brook Terrace Darlington DL3 6PJ*



# JOHN TENNANT FOR TEES VALLEY MAYOR



*Giving Tees Valley the voice it needs*

**ON THURSDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> MAY**

I am standing in this election to offer the residents of Darlington, Hartlepool, Teesside and Redcar the opportunity to decide for themselves whether they want to be a part of the Tees Valley Combined Authority. I believe a referendum is necessary, especially in the absence of any real engagement before the Combined Authority was signed off by the relevant Councils.

I don't wish to be an all-powerful Mayor at the head of a bureaucratic Combined Authority that has no legitimacy or credibility in the eyes of the public. You are the boss, you should have your say on the TVCA.

The Mayor has powers on Transport, Adult skills, Local economy and Housing. All of these issues are highly important and we need solutions to help everyone in Tees Valley move forward in post Brexit Britain.

I am a supporter of devolution, but not one that creates more politicians and bureaucrats, I believe in direct democracy at the local level. The TVCA is an extension of bureaucracy that no-one really wants.

I want to see better transport, greater access to job opportunities across the region and investment in housing. That means stronger links between

Councils and educational establishments as well as industry to create a better route to work for the next generation. I also strongly believe that a metro system to rival that of Tyne and Wear is needed to attract investment across the region and bring much needed attention to Teesside Airport.

## MY TOP 5 PRIORITIES

- ✓ A referendum on the Tees Valley Authority
- ✓ Better transport – a Metro system for Tees Valley
- ✓ Improve our housing stock and deliver affordable homes
- ✓ Attract investment and better paid jobs across the region
- ✓ Provide support to local communities in need of action

**The referendum comes first – that is my primary concern, you should be allowed your say on the Tees Valley Combined Authority.**

# Sue Jeffrey

Labour's Candidate  
for Metro Mayor

**My name is Sue Jeffrey, and I am Labour's candidate, with a plan to give the Tees Valley control of its future and rebuild our pride.**

The five areas making up the Tees Valley have a lot to be proud of. But, for too long it has been easy for London to ignore us, to think investing in Newcastle or Manchester means they have done "northern issues". Now is the time to take control of our own future.

I've lived in the Tees Valley nearly forty years. I raised my family and first started to fight for local people, spending my working life in housing and regeneration, rebuilding our homes and communities and standing up for what I believe in.

That's why I want to be your Metro Mayor. I have a five point plan which focuses on job creation, and uniting the Tees Valley as one strong voice no one can ignore.

The Tees Valley will have the chance to choose where it invests and how it grows, working to end our dependency on either officials in London who don't listen, or foreign investors who have nothing to lose by abandoning us when times get tough. I am determined to seize that power and make it work for us.

Together we will unite as one voice, and stand proud of who we are, proud to be building our own Tees Valley. That is the Tees Valley I want to lead as our first Metro Mayor.



## A Future for the Tees Valley

## I will:

- Appoint business ambassadors to work with the Mayor to sell the Tees Valley to the world.
- Deliver a Tees Valley plan for Brexit, finding opportunities for new investment and trade, minimising risk to our businesses and industry and securing replacements for European funding.
- Make the Mayor's Office the driving force behind Tees Valley's bid for City of Culture. I'll work to boost tourism jobs by at least 3,000 by 2026.

## Sue's 5 Point Plan for the Tees Valley

### 1 - JOBS

delivering high quality well paid jobs built on local investment

### 2 - EDUCATION

I will take funding from London & use it to develop our own skills strategy, ensuring everyone in the Tees Valley can train in the skills our local economy needs

### 3 - HIGH PAY ECONOMY

I will work to deliver a Tees Valley living wage of £8.45 an hour & make more secure jobs

### 4 - REGENERATING HOMES & COMMUNITIES

My plan will bring 25,000 more jobs, build 20,000 new homes & improve communities & town centres

### 5 - BUILDING A WINNING TEAM

We must stand together to speak up for the Tees Valley. I'll give us a strong & united voice, fighting for more & refusing to settle for less.

# Ben Houchen

## Ben will buy back Teesside Airport

For too long, Teesside airport has been allowed to decline. It was given away by the local authorities a generation ago and local people have had less influence. The result has been a struggle for flights, drop-off fees, and passenger fees that actively discourage airport users.

The new devolution deal gives a large annual cash sum to the Mayor, which can also be used for additional

borrowing. Fresh thinking is needed and a pragmatic and practical approach needs to start by getting hold of the airport in order to give it new leadership.

I'm interested in practical outcomes, not ideological formulas. I think that the needs of our local travelling public should be put first, and as the new Mayor I will be seeking a new settlement at the earliest opportunity.



Ben with James Wharton MP outside Teesside Airport

**Vote for Ben Houchen** *a fresh start for our area!*

Prepared by Ian Galletley MBE on behalf of Ben Houchen, both of Suite 6a DTV Business Centre, Orde Wingate Way, Stockton-on-Tees, TS19 0GD.

# for Mayor

**Ben's plan for *jobs and growth***

## **A NEW INVESTMENT FUND FOR TEESSIDE**

If elected, I will appoint a Teesside Funding Commissioner, with immediate effect, and work with him to create the widest and deepest range of loan and equity funds for early stage and developing businesses in the UK.

This will help unlock the huge potential of Teesside, Darlington and Hartlepool.

Within the first 30 days of my election the Commissioner will make recommendations around the following:

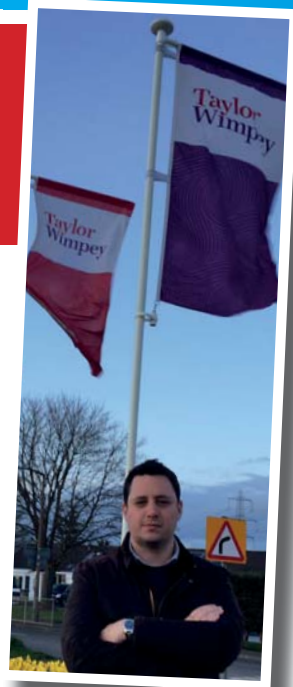
- Expanding funding for the existing North East Finance funds;
- developing new funds for currently un-serviced sectors;
- support for management buyouts;
- funds to support key sectors and to attract inward investors;
- build out our Enterprise Zones.

## **Cleveland Police is broken**

If elected, I will set up a commission to make recommendations to ministers on establishing a body that could replace Cleveland Police. Our area needs a police structure that does justice to the hugely important work of our front line police officers, who keep our local communities safe. They need to be supported by an organisation with credibility, which enjoys the full confidence of the local community.

## **Ben will stop Labour's planning madness!**

Many residents are rightly frustrated by all the houses being built in and around some of our communities. Time and again they have found their objections ignored, with many Labour councils forcing through housing because they are short of the statutory 5 year supply. If I become Mayor, I will pioneer a new site in Teesside that will provide the homes needed to meet local authority shortfalls. A single development, with proper infrastructure and properly planned from the start, sited away from our existing towns and villages.





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](mailto:electoral@stockton.gov.uk)



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