



North East Mayoral Combined Authority

Mayoral Election

Thursday 2 May 2024



Introduction

On Thursday 2 May 2024 there will be an election of a Mayor for a new North East Mayoral Combined Authority.

People who are registered to vote in local elections for any of the seven constituent councils (County Durham, Gateshead, Newcastle, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside or Sunderland) are eligible to vote in this election.

The new Mayor will work alongside those councils in a new authority that will have additional funding and local decision-making powers from central government. There will be no change to the way your local council operates.

This booklet must be sent to each registered elector by Law*. It includes:

- Information about the election
- An election address (i.e. a statement) from each of the mayoral candidates who wish to be included in this booklet
- Information on how to fill in your ballot paper and how the result will be calculated
- Contact details for your local Electoral Services Office

You can also find out more at necaro.co.uk

Your vote is important in deciding who the future Mayor of the North East Mayoral Combined Authority will be.

If you need a copy of this booklet in another format, please contact us (see back of booklet).

Patrick Melia

Combined Authority Returning Officer

*This booklet has been produced in accordance with The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017

The Candidates

Why this is happening?

The election of the Mayor is possible because of a devolution deal agreed between government and local leaders. The deal was approved locally following a public consultation between January and March 2023.

The deal agreed, which could be worth up to £4.2bn over 30 years, means that decisions about investment in areas including transport, skills, housing and regeneration, which are currently made by central government, will be made in the North East.

The role of the Mayor

The Mayor will work alongside council leaders to form the Cabinet for the new North East Mayoral Combined Authority. Voting members of the cabinet are the Mayor and seven elected members – one from each council. The Mayor will chair Cabinet meetings and provide leadership for the new authority.

There are six candidates standing for Mayor of the North East Mayoral Combined Authority.

All candidates you are able to vote for on **Thursday 2 May 2024** are listed in alphabetical order below. This is the order they will appear on the ballot paper.

List of Candidates Standing

DONAGHY, Paul
Reform UK

DRISCOLL, Jamie
Independent

GRAY, Andrew
Green Party candidate

KING, Aidan John
Liberal Democrat

MCGUINNESS, Kim
Labour and Co-operative Party

RENNER-THOMPSON, Guy
The Conservative Party Candidate

How You Can Vote

The Voting System

You will vote once for one candidate by putting an 'X' in the box next to your choice on the ballot paper, which will be lemon coloured for this election.

Votes from all seven constituent local authorities will then be totalled together when the count takes place on Friday 3 May 2024, and the candidate with the highest number of votes overall will be elected as Mayor.

If you vote at a polling station

Before **Thursday 2 May 2024**, you should receive a poll card including details of where your specific polling station is, what photo ID is acceptable and what to do if you can't vote in person on polling day.

Your photo ID, which must be shown before you are given a ballot paper, has to be an original document, not a photocopy or a photo on your phone. Expired documents are acceptable provided that the photo is still a good likeness of you. If you don't have any of the acceptable forms of photo ID, you can apply for a free type of ID, known as a Voter Authority Certificate (VAC) at www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate or via your local Electoral Services Office. The deadline to apply for this is **5pm on Wednesday 24 April 2024**. It may take time to process your application so please apply as soon as you can.

Your polling station will be open between **7am and 10pm on Thursday 2 May 2024**. Staff will ask for your name and address to confirm you are registered and check your photo ID to confirm your identity before issuing a ballot paper. You will be issued either one or two other differently coloured ballot papers, depending on where you live, for other elections on the same day.

If you would prefer to vote by post, you must apply by **5pm on Wednesday 17 April 2024**. You can apply at www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote or by contacting your local Electoral Services Office. Photo ID is not required for a postal vote.

If you would prefer for someone to vote on your behalf, you can apply for a proxy vote at www.gov.uk/apply-proxy-vote or by contacting your local Electoral Services Office. The deadline is **5pm on Wednesday 24 April 2024** and your proxy needs to have photo ID.

If you vote by post

You will receive a postal poll card telling you when your postal vote will be sent and what address it will be delivered to.

Your postal vote must reach your Local Returning Officer by **10pm on Thursday 2 May 2024**. If you miss the post, you can hand it in at your polling station or at the council office specified by your Local Returning Officer. There are new rules about handing in postal votes so please read the instructions with your postal ballot pack carefully if you intend to return your postal vote by hand, or it may be rejected.



Candidate information

Each candidate was given the opportunity to provide an Election Address (i.e. a statement) to be included in this booklet.

Four candidates chose to do so and they have each paid £3,500 towards the production cost of this booklet.

The content of each Election Address to be included in this booklet has been provided by the candidate. The views expressed are theirs alone and cannot be attributed to the Combined Authority Returning Officer.

Lots were drawn to decide the order in which the Election Addresses appear in the booklet.

Fighting
for OUR
North East

 Kim
McGuinness



AS NORTH EAST MAYOR, I'LL DELIVER:

TRANSPORT THAT WORKS FOR EVERYONE

I'll bring buses back into public control. I'll expand the Metro to Washington and upgrade the rail networks across County Durham and Northumberland. I'll invest in a joined up active travel network and a network of electric vehicle charging points.



GREEN JOBS, LOCAL JOBS

Our region will lead the way in green energy. I'll supercharge growth on our rivers and ports, creating thousands of green jobs as well as great, local jobs close to where people live.



GOOD QUALITY, AFFORDABLE GREEN HOMES

I'll ensure local jobs by building and retrofitting homes, and push for powers to seize properties from rogue landlords.



REIMAGINED HIGH STREETS AND NEIGHBOURHOODS

I'll tackle child poverty by reopening Sure Start centres, fight for more local decision-making powers and establish a High Streets Commission to reinvigorate our rural villages, towns and cities.



WORLD-CLASS ARTS AND CULTURE

I'll make our North East the UK's home of culture, music and sport nurturing home grown talent and hosting world class events. We'll create jobs, attract investment and create opportunity for everyone.



Get in touch with me here


I love the North East and I know you do too. I'm standing to be our first North East Mayor to make our region the home of real opportunity.


This region made me who I am. I grew up on a council estate in the West End of Newcastle. My Dad was a scaffolder on the shipyards and my Mam worked part time in insecure jobs, but a change of government in 1997 helped my family and thousands of others to succeed.


I'm proud of my background but I know our great region has been left behind by years of Tory decline. I'm fed up with our North East being stuck behind Manchester and Leeds, let alone London. It's time to take control of our own decisions so our region can finally grow.

As Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner I have a track record of fighting for our region. I'm ambitious about our future. My plan will put our region in the lead on the green jobs of the future whilst creating more good local jobs, the greenest, publicly controlled transport in the country, a great home for everyone and a new era for the creative economy.

 Labour
and co-operative

 Kim@kimmcguinness.org

 www.kimmcguinness.org

 /NorthumbriaKim

 @KiMcGuinness

Prepared by Kate Bolger of Labour North, Kings Manor, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE1 6PA, election agent for Kim McGuinness, address in Northumberland.

GUY RENNER-THOMPSON - A STRONG LOCAL VOICE, AND A MAYOR FOR THE WHOLE OF THE NORTH EAST

The North East is a region with a proud history. The home of the Industrial Revolution. The North East has been leading Britain for centuries.

Our new Devolution Deal is the next chapter in our long story. The deal unlocks over £4.2 billion and transfers power from London to local leaders like Guy who know what our communities need and want.

The Government expects the deal will create 24,000 extra jobs, create 70,000 skills courses to get people into good jobs and leverage £5.0 billion of private sector investment. But Guy knows we can do better than that.

GUY'S PLAN FOR THE NORTH EAST

NO TAX RISES - Never use the new powers of the Mayor to add more tax on council tax & business rate bills.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT - We have re-opened the Northumberland Line. Do the same with the Leamside Line and new services on the East Coast line. Integrate bus, train & metro tickets so one ticket crosses the region.

BACKING THE MOTORIST - Prioritise key road upgrades, cash for potholes & never make it harder for cars to go into our towns & cities.

HELP FOR SMALL BUSINESSES - Launch grant and loan schemes to help small businesses, the backbone of the North East.

JOB'S OF THE FUTURE - Set up a Mayoral Development Corporation to turbocharge investment and bring thousands of new jobs in tech, pharma, automotive and advanced manufacturing. Food production will be the focus in rural areas.

EDUCATION - There is no point bringing new jobs here if local people don't get those jobs. Education & skills training will match up with the needs of business.

Guy Renner-Thompson is an experienced local Councillor, with the plan and determination to ensure this important new role benefits the whole of our region and every local community.

"I was born here. Went to my local school here in Alnwick. Run my construction business here. I will always stand up for the North East like I've stood up for the community I was elected to represent in 2017. My family have lived and worked around North Northumberland, Blyth and Whitley Bay for generations.

I'm responsible for education in Northumberland and I've overseen our schools climbing the league tables. In 2017 only 76% of our schools were being rated 'Good' or 'Outstanding'. Now that figure is 95%. I've started employer forums and opened world-class practical training facilities, which industry leaders say are the best training facilities in the country. I want to expand across the region.

My plan for the North East has an absolute focus on job creation. Putting money in people's pockets is the best way to combat hardship. We've seen how a Conservative mayor with that focus can make a difference in Tees Valley which is jumping ahead of the rest of the region. There is huge potential in big and small business. My education and transport policies are all focussed on that goal of creating good jobs and making sure local people access them. If we do not do that, devolution will have failed."



www.guyrennerthompson.uk

 facebook.com/GRT4NE



**Scan here to
find out more!**

I'M JAMIE DRISCOLL

I'm an engineer. My Dad was a tank driver. My Mam was a youth worker and set up a women's refuge from domestic violence. I left school at 16 and worked in a plumbing factory. I got an engineering degree from Northumbria University as a mature student, and set up my own business.

I live in Newcastle with my wife, who's an NHS doctor, and our two children.

When I was elected North of Tyne Mayor in 2019 I made an election promise to negotiate a new devolution deal covering the wider North East.

I've met with countless ministers and reminded them the North doesn't stop at Manchester. I worked cross-party to secure the best funded devolution deal in the country. £6.1 billion for the North East. I kept my promise.



MY RECORD AS NORTH OF TYNE MAYOR:

5,377 jobs  **320% of target**

5,377 full-time, permanent jobs in renewable energy, manufacturing, and creative industries.

2,133 homes 

2,133 homes on brownfield land, protecting our greenbelt. Including council homes, and eco-homes with solar panels and air-source heat pumps.

Over £3+ for every £1 I invest 

Investment funds that back our local businesses – when they grow, the money comes back to North East taxpayers.

£0 on your council tax bill 

Read in my manifesto how I've created thousands of jobs without increasing your council tax. Visit jamiedriscoll.co.uk

240 schools receiving programmes 

Working with 240 schools, including Child Poverty Prevention, Climate Education, and a whole-school approach to mental health. I'll roll this out across the North East from September.

from 22,000 to 35,000 training enrolments a year 

Trained welders, chefs, care workers and forklift drivers. Including dedicated support for veterans and disabled people. Increased training enrolments from 22,000 a year to 35,000 a year. A 60% increase in value for money.

I'LL DELIVER A TOTAL TRANSPORT NETWORK

The Northumberland Line from Ashington to Newcastle opens this year. In my 2019 manifesto I said I'd back it, and I've kept that promise.

I'll deliver fully integrated public transport, with buses under public control, fully accessible for disabled people. One ticket for bus, rail, Metro and ferry.

Free public transport for 18s and under, or in full-time education.

Every rural area covered by bookable, on-demand buses.

Scan this code to see a map of the planned transport network, with new stations in Washington, Newcastle's Outer West, Team Valley, Cobalt, Silverlink, Beal, Belford, Ferryhill and Leamside.



I'll let you decide how money is spent. I'll fund your local community projects up to £40,000. I've already reopened youth centres and community hubs to bring people together. I've funded festivals, community gardens, beach wheelchairs and youth choirs.

In my 5 years as Mayor I've claimed £0 in expenses.

I haven't charged a penny in council tax. Elect me, and I'll keep the Mayoral precept at £0.

This is not the General Election. Vote for an experienced Mayor, independent from London Party HQs. I really will put the North East first.

Jamie Driscoll

JAMIE DRISCOLL
AN INDEPENDENT
NORTH EAST MAYOR

Prepared by Nicholas Arnold of 12 Rothwell Rd, Newcastle, NE3 1TY, election agent for Jamie Driscoll of 8 Craghall Dene Avenue, Newcastle, NE3 1QR



It's time for

REAL CHANGE

IN THE NORTH EAST

DR. AIDAN KING

A message from Aidan...

Our region has been let down. We've suffered from years of under-investment from governments of all colours, and faced local leaders who'd rather sit on their hands, than make the tough choices.

As your Mayor, that "can't do, won't do" attitude ends with me.

I will invest in our region's future by building Britain's largest on-shore wind farm, creating an energy asset for future generations. This will transform our region's economy and provide cheap, clean energy for business and families across the North East.

I will get our public transport back on track, with simple, cheap ticketing and a service residents can finally rely on to get from A to B.

And as your Mayor, I will always fight to get the best for our region.

It'll take time to reverse years of neglect, but with your support this May, we can get our region back on track.

Dr. Aidan King

Dr. Aidan King's 3 point plan

1. Transforming our region's economy

This is a once-in-a-generation chance to transform our economy.

Aidan's plan to build the UK's largest on-shore wind farm would leave our region with an economic asset that will fund our region for generations to come.



2. Getting our transport back on track

Whether it's buses that don't show up, or the sorry state of our Metro, our region's transport has fallen apart.

Only Dr. Aidan King has a plan to get our region's public transport back on track with transformational investment.



3. Ending the "Can't do" culture

Our region has a huge opportunity to thrive and grow but we've been held back for years.

Dr. Aidan King will get rid of "Can't do" culture and replace it with one that will push our region to be the best it can be, somewhere we can be proud of again.

**FOR CHANGE IN THE NORTH EAST
IT HAS TO BE DR. AIDAN KING!**

Aidan **KING**



Contact details for local Electoral Services Offices

Durham County Council

Electoral Services, County Hall, Durham, DH1 5UL
03000 261212 / electoralservices@durham.gov.uk
www.durham.gov.uk

Gateshead Council

The Returning Officer, Gateshead Council, Civic Centre,
Regent Street, Gateshead, NE8 1HH
0191 433 3963 / electoralregistration@gateshead.gov.uk
www.gateshead.gov.uk/elections

Newcastle City Council

Electoral Services, Newcastle Civic Centre, Barras Bridge,
Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 8QH
0191 278 7878 / elections@newcastle.gov.uk
www.newcastle.gov.uk

North Tyneside Council

Quadrant, Cobalt Business Park, The Silverlink North, North Tyneside, NE27 0BY
0191 643 2270 / elections@northtyneside.gov.uk
my.northtyneside.gov.uk

Northumberland County Council

Election Office, County Hall, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE61 2EF
01670 624 844 / elections@northumberland.gov.uk
www.northumberland.gov.uk

South Tyneside Council

Town Hall, Westoe Road, South Shields, NE33 2RL
0191 424 7230 / elections@southtyneside.gov.uk
www.southtyneside.gov.uk/elections

Sunderland City Council

Electoral Services, Sunderland City Council, City Hall,
Plater Way, Sunderland, SR1 3AA
0191 520 5550 / elections@sunderland.gov.uk
www.sunderland.gov.uk/elections

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