



X

Your Vote

Your Mayor

Your South Yorkshire

2 MAY 2024



**Mayoral Election**  
**Thursday 2 May 2024**

[southyorkshire-ca.gov.uk](http://southyorkshire-ca.gov.uk)

# Introduction

On **Thursday 2 May 2024**, residents of South Yorkshire will be able to vote in an election for the Mayor of South Yorkshire.

People who are registered to vote in local elections for any of the four councils in South Yorkshire (Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield) are eligible to vote in this election.

There will be local council elections on the same day in Barnsley, Rotherham and Sheffield. The next scheduled local elections will take place in Doncaster in **May 2025**.

As the South Yorkshire Combined Authority Returning Officer, I am required by law to send a copy of this booklet to every registered voter in South Yorkshire. This is to ensure that every voter is informed about the election, the candidates who are standing for election and how to vote.

In South Yorkshire the functions of the Mayor and those of the elected Police and Crime Commissioner are being brought together into the single role of Mayor of South Yorkshire.

As a result, the term of the current elected Mayor of South Yorkshire has been shortened by two years, bringing the election forward to **Thursday 2 May 2024**. After the election the Mayor will serve a four year term, with the next election taking place in **May 2028**.

This booklet contains the following important information:

- A list of every candidate standing in the election in alphabetical order.
- Information about the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority and the role of the Mayor.
- Information on the different ways you can vote and completing the ballot paper.
- An Election Address (political statement) from each of the candidates who opted to have one included.
- Contact details for further information and support.

## **Martin Swales**

Combined Authority Returning Officer,  
South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined  
Authority

# The candidates

There are **5 candidates standing for election for the Mayor of South Yorkshire**.

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

**Each Election Address included later in this booklet has been supplied by the candidate. The views expressed are theirs alone.**

Lots were drawn by the Combined Authority Returning Officer to determine the order in which the Election Addresses appear in this booklet.

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Allen, Nick	The Conservative Party Candidate
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Bettney, David	Social Democratic Party
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Coppard, Oliver	Labour and Co-operative Party
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Johnson, Douglas	Green Party
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Kitching, Hannah	Liberal Democrats
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# The Mayor and the Mayoral Combined Authority

## What is the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority?

The South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) was established in 2014. Elections for the Mayor of South Yorkshire took place in 2018 and in 2022.

The four council leaders of Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield and the Mayor of South Yorkshire make up the MCA Board. The Mayor of South Yorkshire chairs the MCA Board.

## What powers does the Mayor have?

The Mayor is elected to represent 1.4 million residents in the region. The Mayor acts to promote South Yorkshire as a place to live, work, visit and invest.

The MCA has powers and funding which are used to help create jobs, grow the economy, up-skill the workforce, support the public transport network and develop new infrastructure and homes in South Yorkshire. Many decisions are made by the MCA and Mayor together, but the Mayor can make some decisions independently.

From May 2024 the Mayor will take on the functions of the **Police and Crime Commissioner** and be able to appoint a Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime to assist. This role includes listening to the needs of communities, securing victim support services, setting the objectives for the police force, and holding the Chief Constable to account.

The Mayor also has the ability to bring together partners across the region to maximise the collective impact of those partners.

## How long will the Mayor be in office?

The successful candidate will be elected for a four-year term, with another election taking place in May 2028.

## How is the Mayor held to account?

The Mayor is ultimately held to account by voters through the election process.

However, the MCA has two statutory committees that hold the Mayor and the MCA to account

- Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- Audit Standards and Risk Committee

These Committees examine the decisions and actions of the Mayor and the MCA, their plans and activities, the risks, value for money, and wider governance.

Police and Crime Panels will scrutinise the Mayor in respect of policing and crime responsibilities.

Additionally, the MCA is required by law to have three statutory officers whose duties include ensuring the lawful and effective operation of the MCA.



# The Election for the Mayor for South Yorkshire

## The Voting System

Following a recent change in election law, the voting system for the Mayoral election will be the first past the post system.

Each voter has one vote.

Vote once for one candidate by putting an 'X' in the box next to their name.

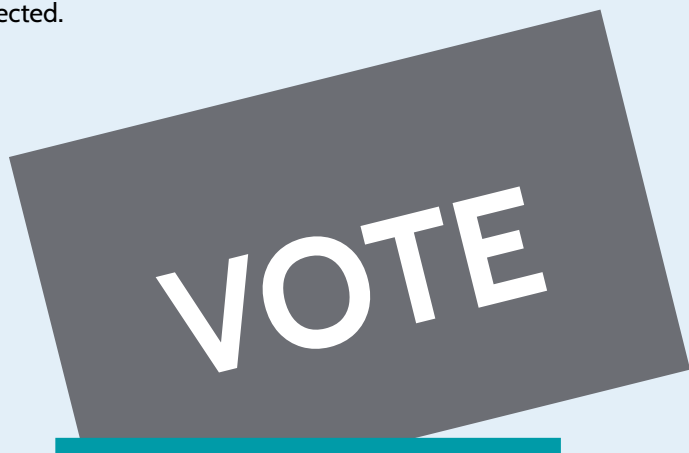
Your vote should show your choice clearly.

Do not mark or write anything else on the ballot paper or it could be rejected.

The candidate who receives the most votes is elected.

The result of the election will be declared after all votes have been counted on **Saturday 4 May 2024**.

You will be able to see the full results of the Mayoral election at [southyorkshire-ca.gov.uk/election](https://southyorkshire-ca.gov.uk/election)



## How you can vote

### 1

## At your polling station

**Before 2 May 2024**, you should have received a poll card which includes the address of your polling station. You can only vote at the polling station stated on your poll card. You do not need to take the poll card with you to vote, but it may save time if you do.

### Voter ID

Electors voting in the polling stations must show an acceptable form of photo ID before they can be issued with a ballot paper. A list of the acceptable forms of ID will be included on your poll card. You can also check with your local electoral services office or at [electoralcommission.org.uk](https://electoralcommission.org.uk).

Only the documents shown on the list can be used as voter ID and they must 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 to you. If you do not have any of the acceptable forms of photo ID, you can apply for a free election ID,

known as a Voter Authority Certificate (VAC). The deadline to apply for a VAC is **5pm on 24 April 2024**. It may take time to process your application so please apply as soon as you can.

Polling stations will be open between **7am and 10pm on Thursday 2 May 2024**. When you arrive at your polling station, you will be asked for your name and address by the staff. They will check that you are registered to vote and will ask to see your photo ID before issuing a ballot paper.

Most polling stations are accessible, but if you have any doubts about access to your designated polling station, or if you require any additional support to help you vote, please contact your Local Electoral Services Office.

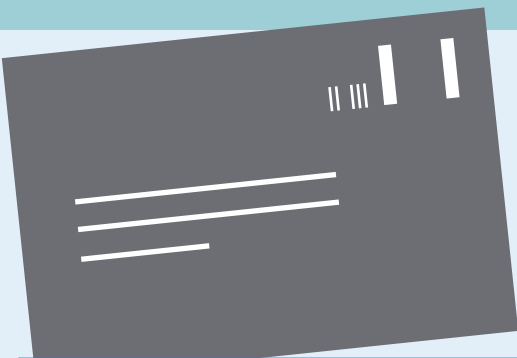
## 2 By post

If you are a registered postal voter, you will receive a postal poll card telling you when your postal vote will be sent and what address it will be delivered to.

When your postal vote arrives, please follow the instructions in the postal ballot pack very carefully. Your postal vote must reach the Returning Officer by **10pm on Thursday 2 May 2024**. If you miss the post, you can hand it in at a 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 vote pack carefully or it may be rejected.

Anyone who is registered to vote can apply to vote by post but for this election, the deadline to apply (**5pm on 17 April**) is very close to the earliest date we can dispatch this booklet.

There may still be time to apply to vote by proxy at this election if you can't get to your polling station on polling day and it is too late to apply for a postal vote.



## 3 By proxy

This means you appoint someone you trust to vote on your behalf at your polling station. The person you appoint as your proxy must be a registered elector and eligible to vote in the election and able to vote at your allocated polling station on your behalf. **They will have to show their photo ID at the polling station.** The deadline for applications to vote by proxy at this election is **5pm on 24 April 2024**. It may take time to process your application so please apply as early as you can.

**More information about voting and how to apply for a VAC or a postal or proxy vote.**

You can find more information about how to apply by contacting your local elections office, contact details are at the back of this booklet. Or visit one of the following websites for more information or to apply online:

- [gov.uk/vote-uk-election](https://www.gov.uk/vote-uk-election)
- [electoralcommission.org.uk](https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk)





## Candidate Election Addresses follow

These were provided by the candidates  
and the views expressed are theirs alone.

# DOUGLAS JOHNSON

## GREEN PARTY CANDIDATE



### FOR A FAIRER, GREENER SOUTH YORKSHIRE

Greens do politics differently. We seek consensus and co-operation, whilst sticking to our principles: “think global; act local.”

Douglas leads the Green group of 14 councillors in Sheffield and has seen the council move to No Overall Control in 2021, forcing the parties to work together.

Douglas has been cabinet member for Transport & Climate Change and committee chair for Housing. He is a member of Yorkshire’s Flood Committee and has been on Combined Authority boards to scrutinise the mayor’s work.

Douglas says, “I will push the government for more investment in the North and do everything possible within our powers and resources, putting our health and climate justice at the heart of every decision.”

### GET IN TOUCH

- [www.sheffieldgreenparty.org.uk/douglas-johnson](http://www.sheffieldgreenparty.org.uk/douglas-johnson)
- [@ douglas.johnson@councillor.sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:douglas.johnson@councillor.sheffield.gov.uk)
- [@DouglasJSheff](https://www.instagram.com/DouglasJSheff)

Prepared by Tony Nicholson, Election Agent, of 12 Halmshaw Terrace, DN5 0BD on behalf of Douglas Johnson, of 191 Fox St, Sheffield S3 9HD

### BETTER BUSES AND TRAMS

A Green Mayor will work to make sure **public transport** is everyone’s first choice, not a failing service for people without cars. The Green vision to extend the bus and tram network across South Yorkshire is at [www.getsheffieldmoving.org](http://www.getsheffieldmoving.org)

### GREEN JOBS AND BUSINESSES

Small businesses are the lifeblood of a **green economy**. A Green Mayor will support good jobs in climate-beating industries like home insulation, solar power generation and public transport - not defence industries or subsidising airports.

### SAFER ROADS

A new Green policing priority will be to make our **roads safer**. Too many people, especially children, die or suffer injury on our roads because of dangerous driving. I will support businesses in the night-time economy to create a safe environment.

### WARMER, HEALTHIER HOMES

Cold and damp homes kill. A Green Mayor will look to boost **insulation** schemes for thousands of rented and owner-occupied homes across South Yorkshire, making our housing stock warmer, cheaper and safer.

### NATURE EMERGENCY

A Green Mayor will bring communities together to promote **wildlife corridors** stretching right across South Yorkshire and into Sherwood Forest. New house-building will reuse derelict land and protect habitats.

### GLOBAL VOICES

A Green Mayor will show leadership for everyone in South Yorkshire. I will give a voice to homeless people and communities affected by the war in **Gaza**, where Greens have consistently called for peace and an immediate ceasefire.



# Green Party

# FIGHTING FOR A FAIR DEAL FOR SOUTH YORKSHIRE

**HANNAH KITCHING** Liberal Democrats  
Lib Dem Candidate for Mayor of South Yorkshire

Dear neighbour,

We all know that South Yorkshire is full of wonderful people, communities and businesses.

But we have also had our setbacks - from both a lack of funds from the Government, and poor use of our taxes locally.

I want to be your voice as the Mayor of South Yorkshire. I want to ensure every community gets a fair deal and that every pound of your taxes that is spent improves our area. I want better opportunities for our young people, public transport that gets to the right places at the right time, and to make sure local businesses can thrive and grow to bring more better paid jobs, right here to South Yorkshire.

I know what it takes in the real world to make things happen. I'm not a full time career politician. I'm a mum, a joint business owner and someone who is willing to roll up their sleeves to get things done.

I want to use my life experience to improve things for people and businesses in South Yorkshire and ensure you get not just a better deal but a fair deal too.

With best wishes,

*Hannah Kitching*

Your Liberal Democrat Candidate for Mayor of South Yorkshire



Prepared by the Andrew Sangar, Election Agent, Sheffield Liberal Democrats, 2 Wyvern House, Sheffield, S2 4HG on behalf of Hannah Kitching, address in Barnsley.

# HANNAH KITCHING

Liberal Democrats



## HANNAH'S 3 PROMISES TO YOU

- ✓ **Safer communities.** Getting back to proper community policing.
- ✓ **Connected communities.** Making our bus service work for you.
- ✓ **Communities with opportunities.** Ensuring businesses locally have access to the right skills so they can grow and provide well paid jobs.

**KITCHING, Hannah**







## Dear South Yorkshire,

Two years ago you voted for me to be your Mayor. I was born and raised here, I live here now, and this is where I hope to grow old. South Yorkshire is my home. Serving as your Mayor has been the greatest honour of my life. I hope I've shown you over the last two years how much potential we have as a region.

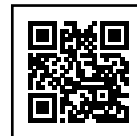
We've made huge progress in just two years. We've taken the tram back under public control, we've taken on the private bus companies that have failed to deliver for South Yorkshire, and we've launched our pioneering Beds for Babies scheme, guaranteeing a safe place to sleep for every child under five.

After 14 years of this Government, our country is in a mess. But nothing they've done can't be undone; none of the challenges we face are inevitable or insurmountable. And while progress is never quick or easy, together I am more convinced than ever that we can restore the pride, the purpose and the prosperity of South Yorkshire.

**Vote Labour**  
and Co-operative

## My priorities:

1. Bring our buses back under public control
2. Guarantee every child under 5 a safe place to sleep
3. Make South Yorkshire Airport City a world leader in sustainable aviation
4. Tackle knife crime
5. Plant 1.4 million trees
6. Renew and extend our tram network
7. Pilot free travel on public transport for young people
8. Lead a clean energy strategy for South Yorkshire
9. Establish a 'Vision Zero' target to stop deaths on our roads
10. Fund a 'South Yorkshire Big Clean' tackling graffiti and fly-tipping



## Read my full Plan

Scan the code or visit [www.OliverCoppard.co.uk](http://www.OliverCoppard.co.uk)

# NICK ALLEN'S PLAN TO BUILD A BETTER SOUTH YORKSHIRE – FOR EVERYONE!

- 1** *Nick Allen is the only candidate in this election with a credible plan to support reopening Doncaster Sheffield Airport.* Let's reopen our airport – it will boost the economy and bring jobs back to South Yorkshire.
- 2** *We need to make our towns and city-centres safer places to live, work and relax.* This includes cracking down on fly-tipping and anti-social behaviour all over South Yorkshire. Littering really damages our image and makes our communities look bad. Nick Allen will support councils to develop fully funded FLAG (Fly-tipping, litter and graffiti) teams to combat the mess!
- 3** *We need more social housing, across South Yorkshire.* There are huge problems in this county with waiting lists. The lack of good quality housing is affecting our economic development. Nick Allen will secure more funding to build more homes to reduce social housing waiting lists.
- 4** *Protect our trees and green spaces.* We all know about the huge problems which have affected trees, green spaces and wildlife in South Yorkshire. We need to learn from the past and protect our urban trees. Local councils should not destroy our trees or green spaces. The Sheffield tree issue should never have happened! The local council were right to apologise.



## NICK ALLEN

### Building a better South Yorkshire

**This election is your opportunity to elect a mayor who really cares about South Yorkshire.**

I grew up here and returned home to Doncaster after university. I have a strong track record of delivering for local people as I have been an elected councillor on Doncaster Council for nine years. I was elected to represent Bessacarr ward in 2015 and I have worked hard to champion local people and their concerns. The local issues I have campaigned vigorously on include stopping the sale of council assets and green spaces, such as Rose Hill in Bessacarr. Our green spaces need to be protected.

I am ambitious for South Yorkshire. I am the only candidate in this election with a truly credible plan to reopen Doncaster Sheffield Airport. It was Don Valley's local Conservative MP, Nick Fletcher, who championed the issue. It just goes to show how much things change when people elect Conservatives! I want to make transport accessible, transparent and fair. This means not wasting vast amounts of tax-payers cash on the Supertrams. We all know how difficult economic circumstances are at the moment. That is why I will not raise a Mayoral precept to fund general mayoral expenditure during my term, it will allow you and your family to keep more of your hard earned money.

*Nick Allen*

**Nick Allen**  
Conservative candidate for  
Mayor of South Yorkshire

 **Conservatives**

 **Vote Conservative**

**Nick ALLEN**



# David Bettney



## For South Yorkshire Mayor

The Former Soldier **"Born and bred here"** joined the **Social Democratic Party** 5 years ago, as it was obvious that the main parties no longer represent the views and needs of the British people.



*Politically in this country,  
we are lions led by  
donkeys!*

- David was born in 1970 in **Mexborough** and was an amateur boxer for Mexborough in the early 80s.
- Despite leaving school, initially without qualifications, he **joined the Army in 1987** at the Army careers office in Doncaster.
- Regimental light heavy weight **boxing champion** 1988 & 1989, then player & coach of the regimental rugby team.
- Experienced many operational tours and leading from the front in **BOSNIA, IRAQ & AFGHANISTAN**.
- Despite a very demanding career, he was then educated to **degree level in Leadership & Management**, and 2 A levels in Terrorism & Political Violence.
- Finished at the rank of **Regimental Sergeant Major** in 2010, with a perfect record of service to his country.
- Went out to Iraq in 2010 to be a bodyguard and then quickly went on to **set up his own security company**.
- Today, he is the country manager of a group of 5 companies **employing over 350 people** from 6 different countries.

**"Let's take our country back... One county at a time."**

Image: Freepik.com

# SDP Social Democratic Party

## What David Bettney will do for us:

- ✓ Campaign to **reduce** your council tax bills.
- ✓ Challenge antisocial behaviour by working directly with youths & sports clubs... **Kids in sport stay out of court!**
- ✓ **Stand against** the divisive politics of putting man against woman, black against white & concentrate on what unites us.
- ✓ **Promote British/Yorkshire Industry**, push back against unrealistic Net Zero ideology. Give huge support to local businesses and plan to **RE-OPEN Doncaster Airport ASAP!**
- ✓ Demand a **"full" financial audit** on all 4 councils for the past 25 years, and highlight any corruption found (and praise where applicable).
- ✓ Support a national campaign to deport all **ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS**.
- ✓ Wage a war on **drug & grooming gangs**.
- ✓ Work to end rough sleeping and homelessness **within 90 days of taking office!**

Prepared by Jackie Briggs,  
92 High Street, Goldthorpe  
Rotherham S63 9DG as agent  
for David Bettney address in  
Barnsley.

*I don't do "Politically Correct"  
I will ALWAYS do what is "Morally Right"*



# SDP Social Democratic Party

Family



Industry



Nation



# Further Information and Support

## Information on the role of the Mayor, the MCA and obtaining this booklet in an alternative format.

If you would like to know more about the election, the Mayor, the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority or if you require this booklet in another format, please get in touch via:

**Email** [enquiries@southyorkshire-ca.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@southyorkshire-ca.gov.uk)

**Telephone** 0808 178 6767

**Website** [southyorkshire-ca.gov.uk/election](https://southyorkshire-ca.gov.uk/election)

## Information on the Mayoral candidates.

If you want more information about the candidates standing for election, please contact the candidates directly on the details shown in their Election Address.

## Information on registering to vote, polling stations, postal voting and proxy voting.

Electoral registration and voting services are managed by the **Local Electoral Services Office in the council area where you live**. They can provide more information about applications to register to vote, or for a Voter ID, postal vote, or proxy vote and about your local polling station. The contact details for the local offices are listed over the page.

More information about elections and voting is also available from [electoralcommission.org.uk](https://electoralcommission.org.uk) or from [gov.uk/vote-uk-election](https://gov.uk/vote-uk-election)

# Local Electoral Services Offices

**Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council, Electoral Services, PO Box 634, Barnsley S70 9GG**

**Email** [electoralservices@barnsley.gov.uk](mailto:electoralservices@barnsley.gov.uk)

**Telephone** 01226 773070

**Website** [barnsley.gov.uk/elections](https://barnsley.gov.uk/elections)

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**City of Doncaster Council, Electoral Services, Legal and Democratic Services Civic Office, Waterdale, Doncaster DN1 3BU**

**Email** [electoralservices@doncaster.gov.uk](mailto:electoralservices@doncaster.gov.uk)

**Telephone** 01302 736874

**Website** [doncaster.gov.uk/elections](https://doncaster.gov.uk/elections)

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**Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council, Electoral Services, Riverside House, Main Street, Rotherham S60 1AE**

**Email** [electoral.services@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:electoral.services@rotherham.gov.uk)

**Telephone** 01709 336010

**Website** [rotherham.gov.uk/elections](https://rotherham.gov.uk/elections)

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**Sheffield City Council, Electoral Services, Town Hall, Pinstone Street, Sheffield S1 2HH**

**Email** [elections@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:elections@sheffield.gov.uk)

**Telephone** 0114 273 4093

**Website** [sheffield.gov.uk/elections](https://sheffield.gov.uk/elections)

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**2 MAY 2024**

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**Printed by:** Financial Data Management Ltd,  
Unit 7, Segro Park Canning Town,  
160 Bidder Street, London E16 4ES