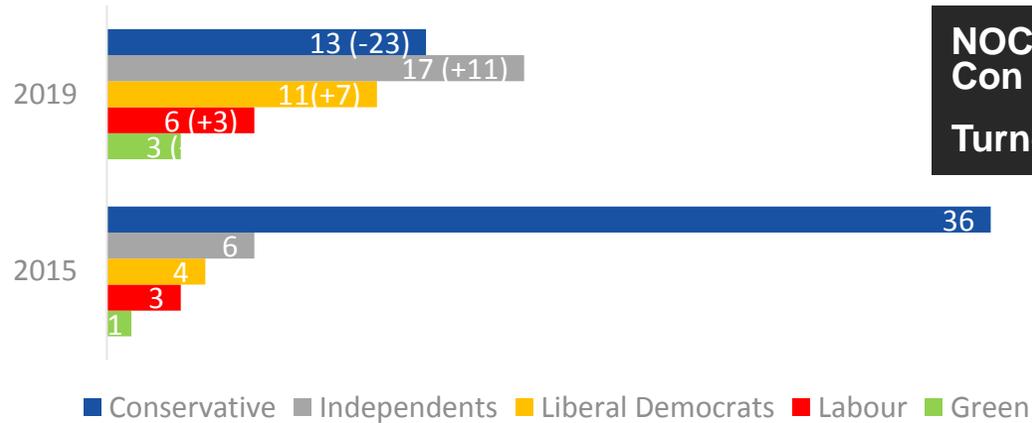


North Somerset

Results May 2019*



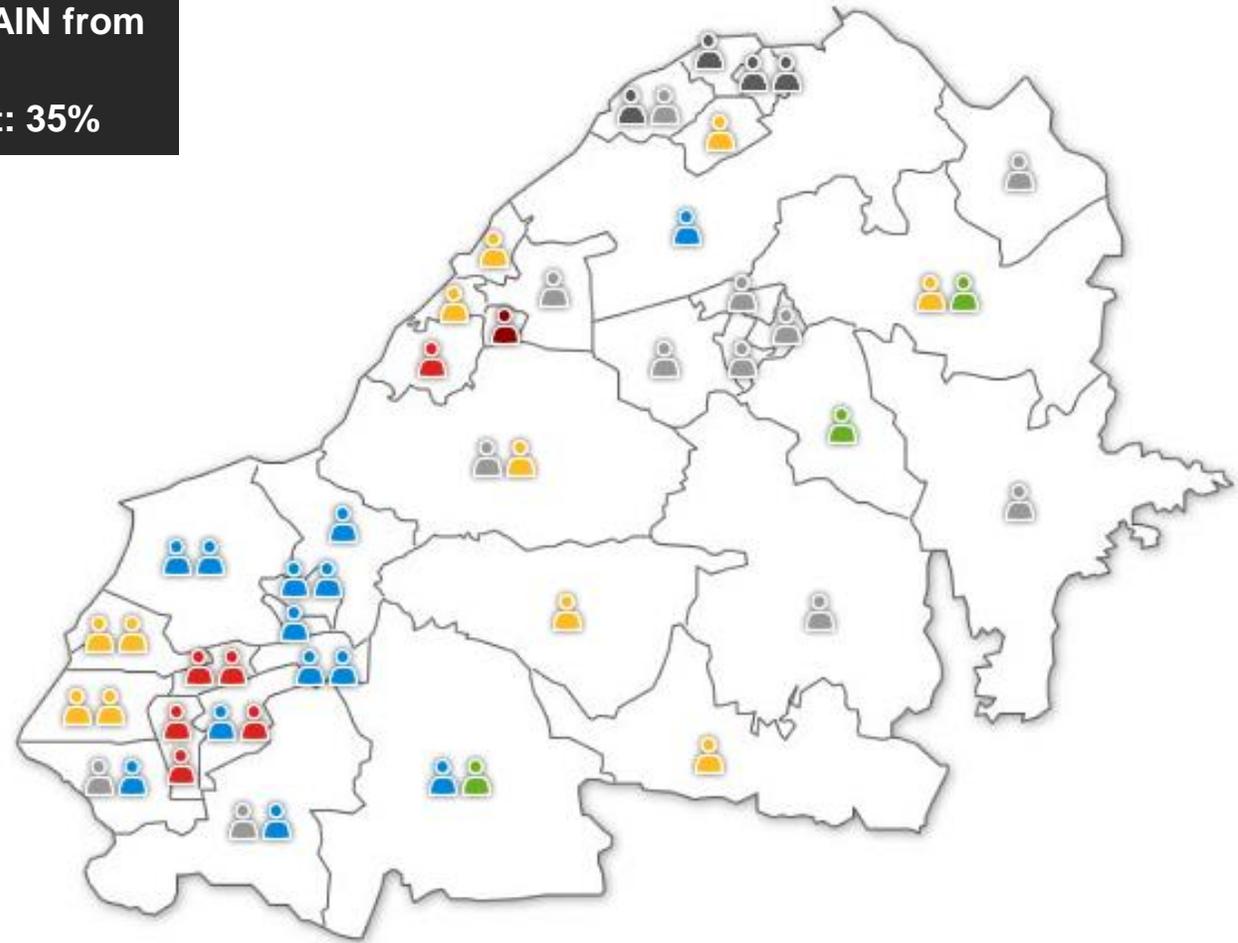
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Turnout: 35%

Tories ousted – but no overall winner

- **Location, location, location;** Tories all but wiped out in North Somerset, but manage to mitigate the damage in Weston-Super-Mare's suburbs. The rural/ urban electoral split is clear;
- **Independent's Day;** the number of candidates Independent of a major political party who were elected is unprecedented in the West of England in modern times;
- **Result creates a development muddle;** developers have faced a consistent set of political conditions over the course of a decade. That political hegemony ended today – for four years at least. Only time will tell about the future of housing proposals in the west of North Somerset where developers will deal with a melting pot of Lib-Dems, Greens and Independent councillors.

* Map courtesy of North Somerset Council website.



Parties engorge on wounded Tories

The North Somerset Conservative candidates who dared to look at the election results in neighbouring B&NES overnight may have feared the worst before counting started on 3 May. But rather than the Lib-Dems who took B&NES Tories by storm, it was all parties involved in North Somerset who chewed away chunks of Tory support from both rural and urban locations.

Cllr Nigel Ashton has already moved to exclude the Tories from any sort of coalition. The identity of the new council leadership and leader will be the subject of intense discussions over the coming weeks. What is certain is that the vote has removed councillors of immense experience in running council affairs, including four Cabinet members out of seven - Elfan Ap Rees (former Cabinet Member for Planning/ Deputy Leader), Jan Barber (Children and Young People), David Pasley (Finance), Felicity Baker (Tourism and other).

A range of Independent candidates representing different perspectives and causes were the main rallying points for disaffected former Conservative voters. A combined total of 17 councillors who do not identify with a major political party represents an extraordinary number. The Lib-Dems and Labour can claim a measure of progress – both have swelled their numbers by at least double to 11 and 6 seats respectively.

Wrapped within the uncertainty of whoever takes-up power, there is one thing guaranteed - a steep learning curve for whoever takes charge.

JBP Political Analysis Team

Get in touch with us on 0117 907 3400 for more insight and how we can assist you with your projects, and delivering your messages to local politicians.



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