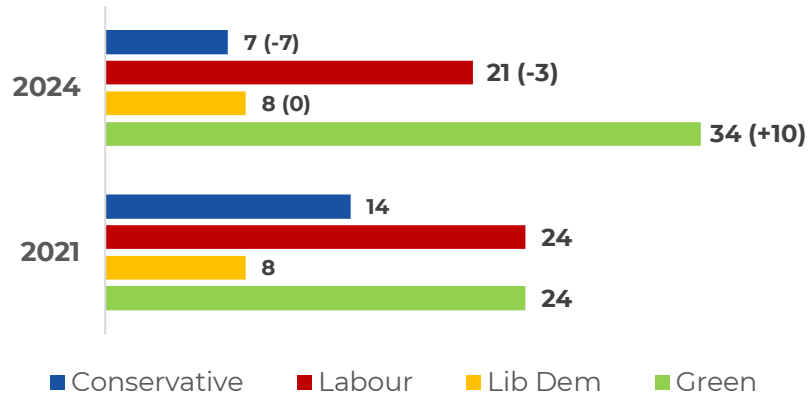


Bristol City Council

Local election results May 2024

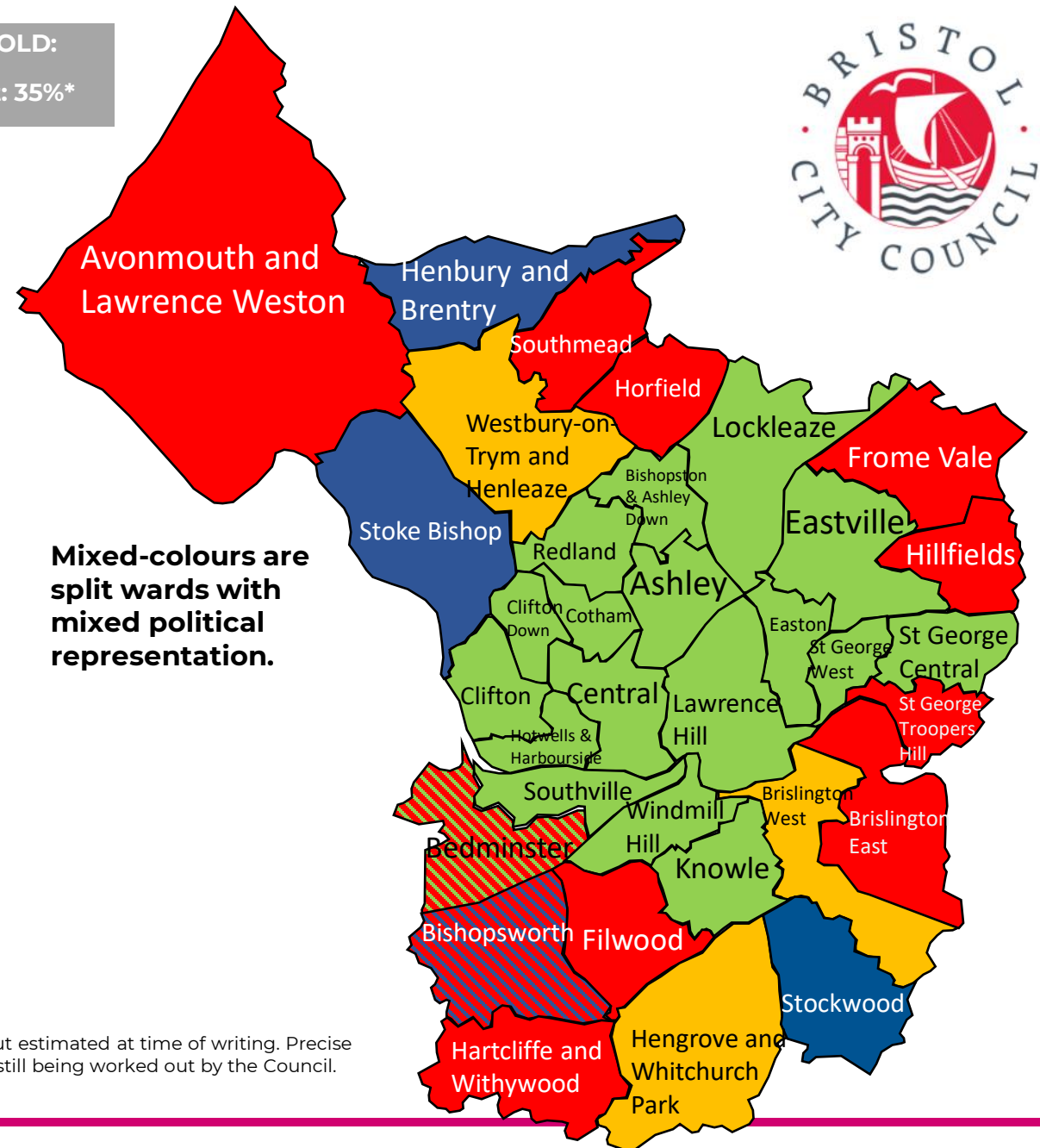


Green surge continues but falls just short of majority

- **Green Expansion:** Having started with a single councillor in the mid-2000s, the Green Party has slowly but surely increased its presence in the city. Consolidation in central Bristol—where they won every seat in the new Bristol Central parliamentary constituency—and expansion into suburban areas racked up ten gains to leave them two seats short of an overall majority.
- **Labour's New Landscape:** The recent election results have painted a new picture for Labour. They now seem to be a party primarily representing Bristol suburbia. The new Bristol Central constituency will be a closely watched battleground in 2024, with the co-leader of the Green Party, Carla Denyer, pitted against the experienced Labour MP, Thangam Debbonaire.
- **The 'No Mayor' effect:** Did the absence of a Mayoral contest have much impact? Turnout was turbo-charged in 2016 and 2021, the latter at 41%. This time, just over a third of residents turned out. Without the razzmatazz of a Mayoral contest, turnout returned was undoubtedly impacted.

NOC HOLD:

Turnout: 35%*



* Turnout estimated at time of writing. Precise figures still being worked out by the Council.

Bristol's Green Belt expands with a bad night for Labour

The momentum created by the Green Party in the 2021 Bristol elections continued in 2024 with impressive results that left them on the cusp of outright control. The test for the Greens was whether the 'Green Belt' of seats spanning the city's inner urban core could expand, touching areas that had never voted for the party before.

The answer? Yes, it did with an eastern sprawl into St George West and St George Central—the former seat of Nicola Beech, previous Cabinet Member for Planning and secured an unexpected victory in Knowle, unseating former Lib-Dem group leader Gary Hopkins.

For Labour, this result was close to disastrous, as big gains were achieved nationwide. Silver linings were in short supply, but Labour routed the Tories in Avonmouth and Lawrence Weston, retained their single seat in Bedminster (unexpectedly), and, for the first time in the 21st century, won one seat in Tory Bishopsworth.

However, any ambition the party had of compensating for Green losses in long-standing Tory suburbs, like Henbury and Stockwood, turned to dust.

Former Bristol MP Stephen Williams dramatically returned to public office as one of three new Lib-Dem councillors comfortably winning in Westbury-On-Trym and Henleaze. The trio's scalps included long-standing Tory councillor Geoff Gollop whose group is now roughly the size it was in 1997 – the scene of Tony Blair's election landslide.

What more do the Greens need to win outright control next time? Simple. Move into Bristol's north and south suburbs. For Labour, planning a fightback is more complex. Holding the Mayoralty for eight years with all its ups and downs may be part of the disappointment. But cue head-scratching asking, 'Just how did Labour's unassailable support in Bristol's four parliamentary constituencies get converted into nearly a Green council during a (unpopular) Tory government?'

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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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