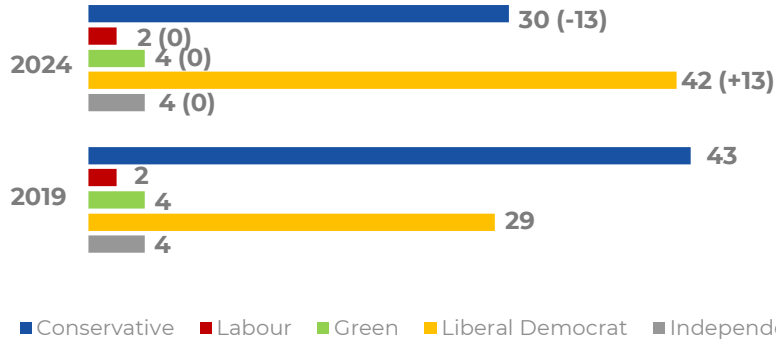


Dorset Council

Local Election Results 2024



LIB DEM: GAIN FROM CON
Turnout: 35%

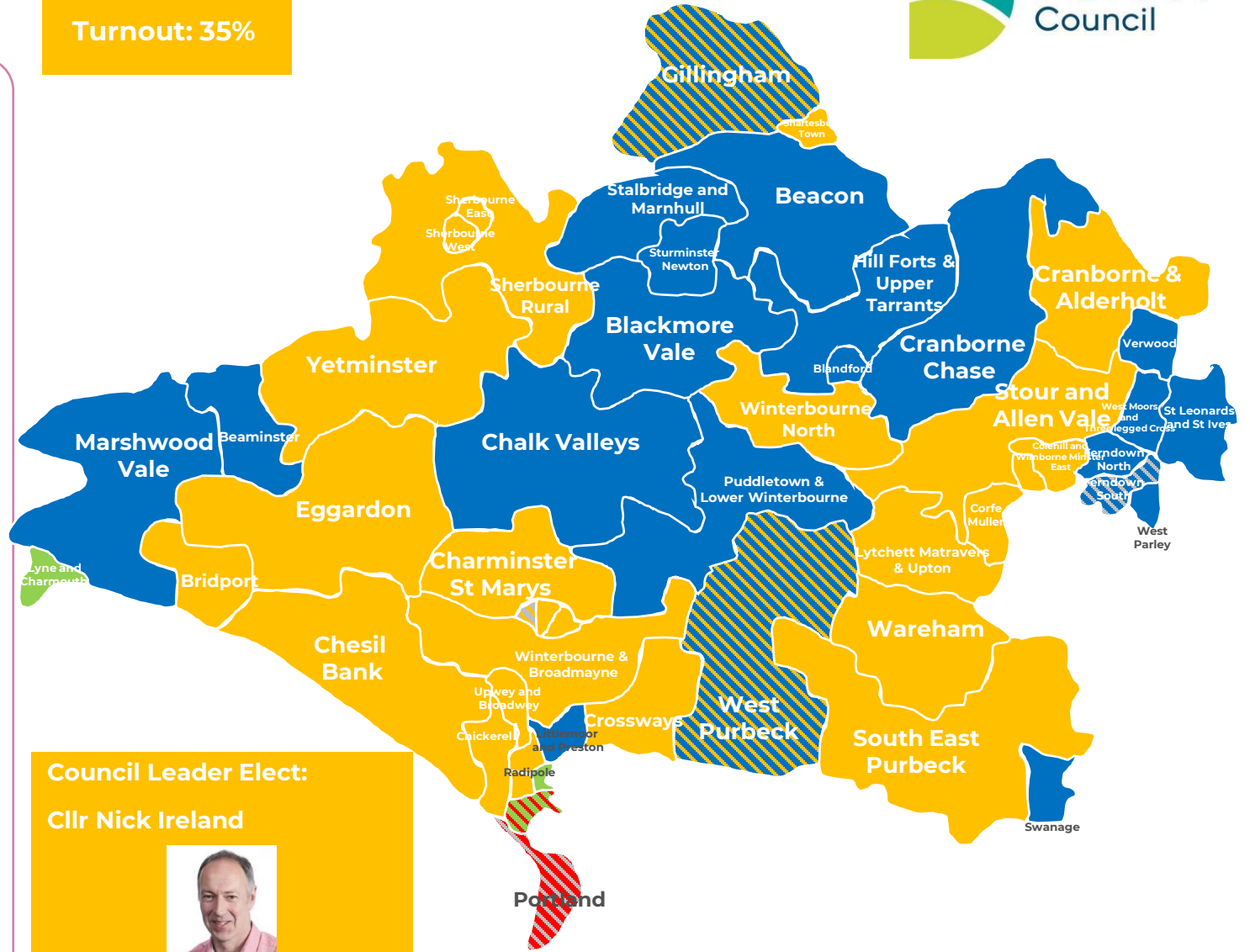


Tory stronghold falls as Lib Dems make seismic gains

Unexpected earthquake: The Lib Dems rode the tsunami of anti-Tory sentiment and made extensive gains across Dorset, taking 13 seats in what is traditionally a very strong area for the Tories. Their performance was excellent in the West and South East of the council area as previously safe rural Conservative wards such as Eggardon and Yetminster fell.

Tories shaken to their core (vote): But the ceiling did not completely collapse on the Tories. The rural central areas, North Dorset, and the affluent communities in the East of the County closer to Bournemouth and the New Forest held firm.

Tactical voting?: It is notable that the opposition parties stayed still, with Labour/ Greens confined to fighting it out in urban areas such as Weymouth and Portland. There was no rise of the Independents. Opposition voters backed the Lib Dems across most of Dorset to defeat the incumbent Conservatives.



Council Leader Elect:
Cllr Nick Ireland



Political Earthquake in Dorset: Lib Dems Shake Up Tory Stronghold

As the votes were tallied in Dorset on Friday evening, the political landscape underwent a profound transformation, akin to an earthquake reshaping what was once solidly Conservative terrain. Lib Dem leader Councillor Nick Ireland could hardly contain his satisfaction as his party not only rattled the established order but also claimed outright control of the council.

The Lib Dems, traditionally confined to urban strongholds like Dorchester, Sherborne, and Wimborne Minster, rumbled through the rural expanses of Tory Dorset, particularly in the west. Here, the tremors were felt most acutely as ward after ward, previously secure under Conservative majorities like that in Eggardon, shifted dramatically to the Lib Dems.

While some areas in North and Central Dorset managed to withstand the full force of this political upheaval, providing some stability for the Conservatives, these were mere aftershocks compared to the upheaval elsewhere. By the night's close, the Tories found little reason for celebration, facing a landscape dramatically altered by tectonic political shifts.

This upheaval signals instability to Conservative MPs such as Chris Loder of West Dorset and Richard Drax of South Dorset, who will be eyeing the rumbling ground with trepidation. With each constituency showing robust Conservative majorities on paper, the scale of these council losses could forecast more tremors to come.

Amidst this shifting ground, the Lib Dems capitalized masterfully on tactical voting. As Labour, Greens, and Independents held their ground, a resonant "get the Conservatives out" message reverberated across Dorset, echoing opposition forces' strategic focus and unity. This concerted effort left a lasting impression, suggesting that Tory voters who delivered a proverbial bloody nose to their party, along with those who abstained, might still realign their loyalties come the General Election.

In Dorset, the political upheaval has redrawn boundaries and expectations, leaving traditional power structures in disarray and heralding a new era of Lib Dem control.

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.



James Hinchcliffe
Strategic Engagement Director

james.hinchcliffe@jbp.co.uk



Matthew Bacon
Account Director

matthew.bacon@jbp.co.uk



Matthew Roberts
Account Director

matthew.roberts@jbp.co.uk



Ellie Milone
Account Manager

ellie.milone@jbp.co.uk



Simon Prescott
Senior Counsel

simon.prescott@jbp.co.uk

