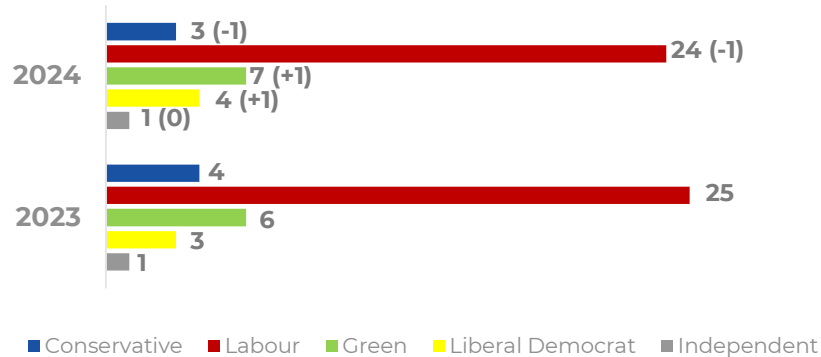


# Exeter City Council

## Local election result May 2024

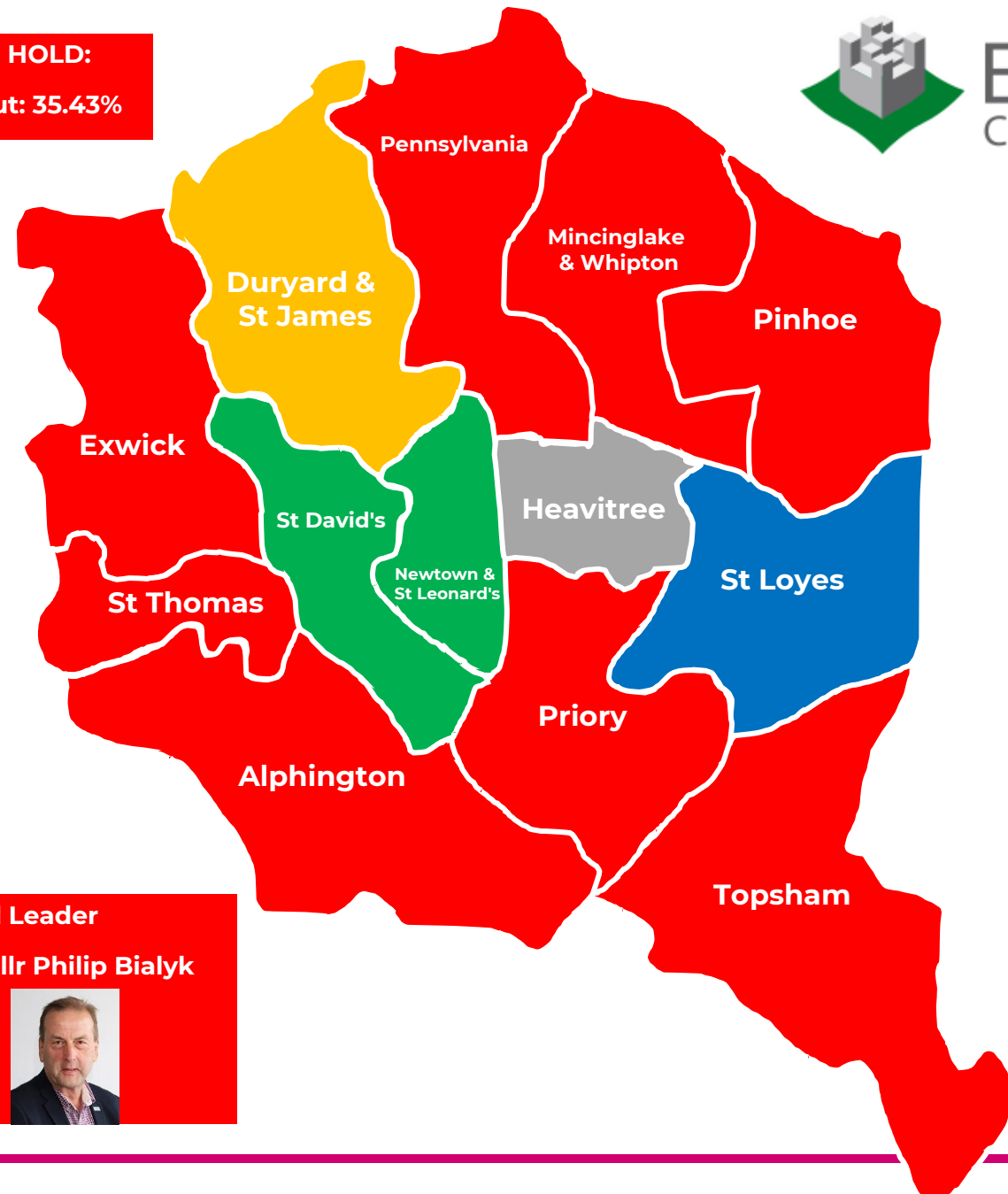
(One-third of seats in the council contested – the map reflects the voting outcome [at this election](#))



### Labour continues to dominate in Exeter

- **Stable Labour majority continues:** Labour have enjoyed an overall majority on Exeter City Council since 2010 and this looks to continue for some time to come with Labour controlling 24 out of a possible 39 seats.
- **Opposition parties fail to make substantial gains:** Given their performance in the past couple of years, the Greens may have been hoping to capitalise on rumoured dissatisfaction with Labour in more urban areas/ student-heavy wards. However, they did not manage to make gains beyond the central wards where they already have some Councillors. The same is true for the Liberal Democrats who failed to make gains beyond Duryard & St James.
- **Low Traffic Neighbourhoods impact:** The introduction of Low Traffic Neighbourhoods has been extremely contentious in the city and mainly led to Labour losing the Heavitree seat to an Independent candidate. There was nearly a second loss for Labour on this issue holding Mincinglake & Whipton by a slender 67 votes.

Lab HOLD:  
Turnout: 35.43%



Council Leader

Elect: Cllr Philip Bialyk



# Labour dominates the wilds of Exeter politics once again

As Exeter embarks upon the Bank Holiday Weekend, a gentle stir can be felt in the corridors of the Royal Albert Memorial Museum, where Gerald the Giraffe, the venerable stuffed exhibit, presides. Most years, the city commemorates the beast, who has been 'sticking his neck out' since 1920. Similarly, in most years, the Exeter City Council elections typically unfold with results sparing the need for predictions that mirror Gerald's pose.

Labour, like an immovable elephant, reaffirmed its might in Exeter's political landscape. Despite watching from afar the Green Party's recent gains in Bristol, Labour maintained its stronghold. The Greens, resembling sprightly squirrels, made small gains in the central ward of Newtown & St Leonards but must venture deeper into suburban territories to become a significant force.

The Liberal Democrats, much like cautious foxes, stayed within their familiar territory of Duryard & St James gaining a councillor here but failed to expand their influence elsewhere. Their presence, though consistent, lacked the breadth needed to unsettle the larger political beasts.

The Conservative Party, almost as rare as a woolly mammoth, continues its retreat. Once formidable, they are now reduced to echoes of the past, losing Topsham to Labour's advance. An Independent, riding the wave of resentment over controversial traffic policies, captured Heavitree. This issue nearly cost Labour another seat in Mincinglake and Whipton, reminding even the dominant that challenges can arise. In this museum of political wildlife, Labour remains the dominant force, like Gerald the Giraffe standing tall among the exhibits.

While smaller parties add diversity, none have yet mustered the strength to seriously challenge the established order. For now, Labour can graze peacefully, all but guaranteed dominance at the local and parliamentary levels in the city. But the landscape of Exeter politics could change – assume a change of Government in 2024, and it might be Labour retreating over a period of years as national incumbency progresses the circle of (political) life.

## 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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