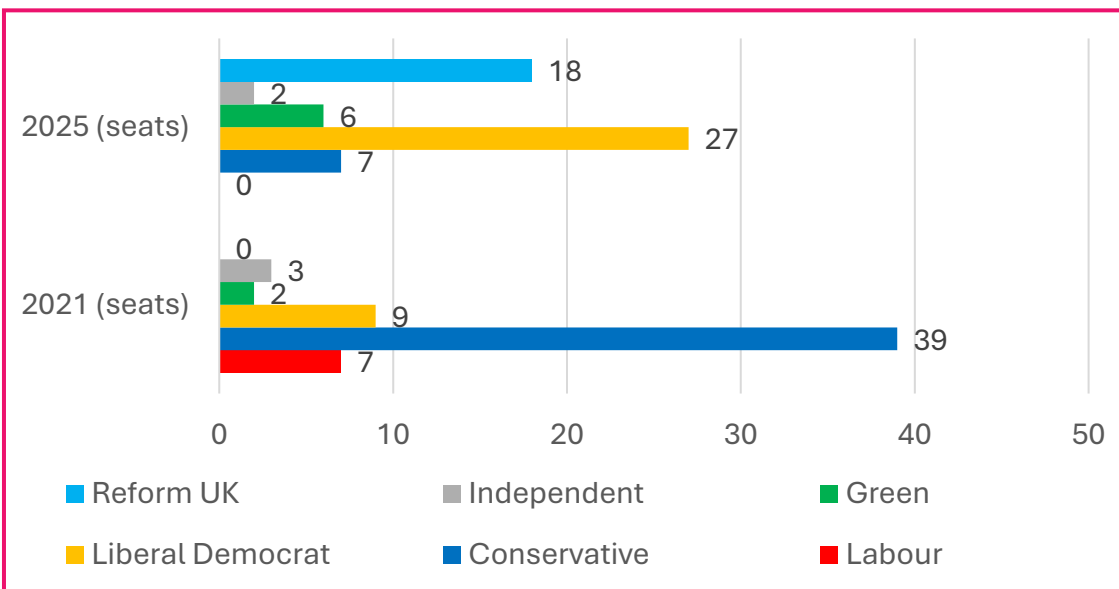


TURNOUT: 36%



Conservative strongholds run dry

The Liberal Democrats and Reform continue where they left off in 2024 by challenging the very idea of a Conservative heartland. This time, they kept the spoils to themselves from Labour, with gains across the county.

Liberal Democrats surge – but fall just short

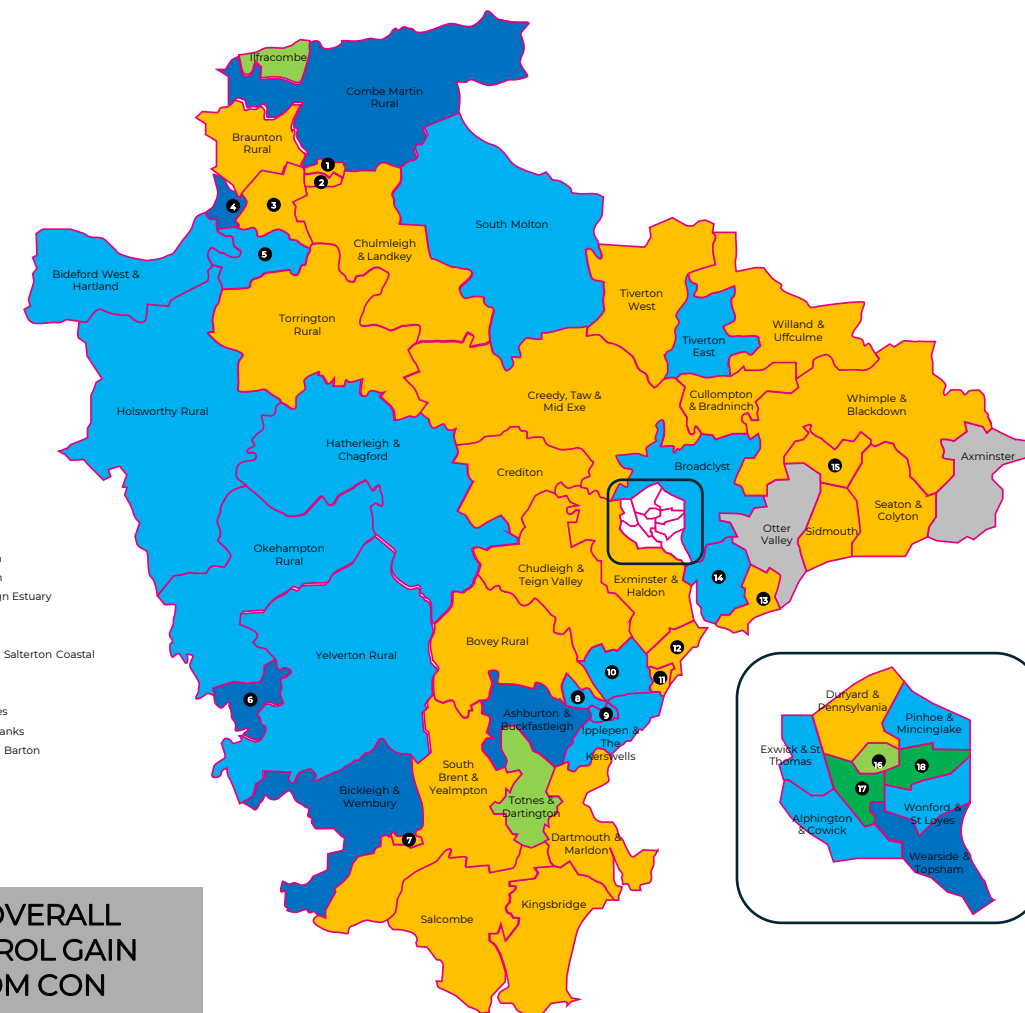
You can now walk from Barnstaple to Salcombe and stay within Liberal Democrat territory. Yet this isn't enough to secure their first overall majority on the Council since 2009.

Exeter Labour strongholds painted Devonian green and sea blue

No Labour area is safe, with previous territory in Exeter taken by both the Green Party and Reform. Labour has no representation on the County, in a city which has been a Council and parliamentary stronghold for decades.

- 1 Barnstaple North
- 2 Barnstaple South
- 3 Fremington Rural
- 4 Northam
- 5 Bideford East
- 6 Tavistock
- 7 Ivybridge
- 8 Newton Abbot North
- 9 Newton Abbot South
- 10 Kingsteignton & Teign Estuary
- 11 Teignmouth
- 12 Dawlish
- 13 Exmouth & Budleigh Salterton Coastal
- 14 Exmouth
- 15 Feniton & Honiton
- 16 St Sidwells & St James
- 17 St David's & Haven Banks
- 18 Heavitree & Whipton Barton

NO OVERALL
CONTROL GAIN
FROM CON



The swansong election of Devon County Council before its abolition has also proved to be just that for the Conservatives, ending sixteen years in power. Crashing from the 38 seats gained in 2021 to 7 marks a decisive end to a long trend of strong Conservative influence - albeit marked by brief periods of no overall control and Liberal Democrat leadership.

The primary beneficiaries are the Liberal Democrats, building on their strong 2024 General Election performance by gaining 18 divisions, mostly from the Conservatives. These gains fell largely in the south and east of Devon, picking up votes in Devon's smaller towns. Although their 27 divisions leaves them 3 shy of a majority, they will either seek to govern as a minority administration or through an arrangement with the Green Party. Such a move would return them to control of the council for the first time since 2009.

Unsurprisingly, Reform are one of the main culprits behind the Conservatives' demise, obtaining 18 seats from scratch. Divisions that Conservatives once assumed safe are no longer, with their former strongholds in the west of Devon now a lighter shade of blue.

But Reform did not stop there. They took Labour divisions in Exeter – an area that stayed Labour throughout even through poor electoral performances in the Corbyn years. Reform's performance against Labour will be one to watch in urban areas like Plymouth, should they become part of a wider Devon unitary authority over the coming years.

All of Labour's 7 divisions going into this election have been wiped out, haemorrhaged to Reform and the Green Party in their former urban strongholds in Exeter. With the Green Party building their presence in the city since they picked up their first Exeter City Council seat in 2019, they have taken votes from the Labour Party, which many voters feel has moved away from the Left.

The Green Party's performance shows that they are not only a threat to Labour, but also taking Conservative seats that were previously safe. These are in areas where conservation is a key issue, driving disgruntled Conservatives across to a party that has the environment as a priority.

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