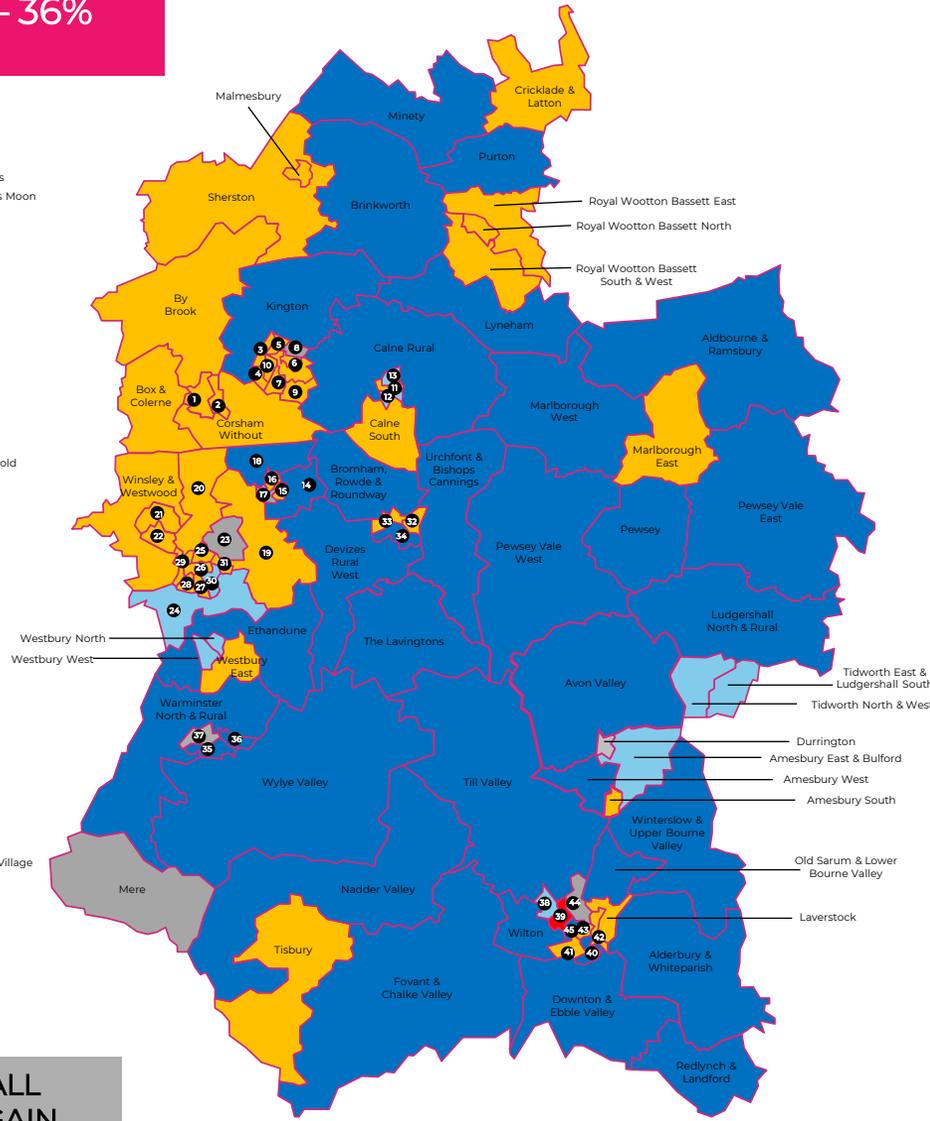


TURNOUT – 36%

- 1 Corsham Pickwick
- 2 Corsham Ladbrook
- 3 Chippenham Cepen Park & Derriads
- 4 Chippenham Cepen Park & Hunters Moon
- 5 Chippenham Hardenhuish
- 6 Chippenham Hardens & Central
- 7 Chippenham Lowden & Rowden
- 8 Chippenham Monkton
- 9 Chippenham Pewsham
- 10 Chippenham Sheldon
- 11 Calne Central
- 12 Calne Chilvester and Abberd
- 13 Calne North
- 14 Bowerhill
- 15 Melksham East
- 16 Melksham Forest
- 17 Melksham South
- 18 Melksham Without North & Shurnhold
- 19 Melksham Without West & Rural
- 20 Holt
- 21 Bradford on Avon North
- 22 Bradford on Avon South
- 23 Hilperton
- 24 Southwick
- 25 Trowbridge Adcroft
- 26 Trowbridge Central
- 27 Trowbridge Drynham
- 28 Trowbridge Grove
- 29 Trowbridge Lambrok
- 30 Trowbridge Park
- 31 Trowbridge Paxcroft
- 32 Devizes East
- 33 Devizes North
- 34 Devizes South
- 35 Warminster Broadway
- 36 Warminster East
- 37 Warminster West
- 38 Salisbury Bemerton Heath
- 39 Salisbury Fisherton and Bemerton Village
- 40 Salisbury Harnham East
- 41 Salisbury Harnham West
- 42 Salisbury Milford
- 43 Salisbury St Edmund's
- 44 Salisbury St Francis and Stratford
- 45 Salisbury St Paul's



NO OVERALL CONTROL GAIN FROM CON

Tory setback in traditional stronghold

This is a traditional Tory stronghold which the party has run for decades. Whilst the losses here are not as dramatic as some other councils, they lost two dozen seats, their majority and Cabinet Member for Planning.

Reform on the scene – and making an impact

Reform has burst onto the local scene, securing 10 seats in the area from a standing start. Beyond outright gains, they have impacted many vital seats contested between the Conservatives and Lib Dems and have split the right of centre vote in many divisions.

Coalition negotiations ahead?

The Lib Dems will be pleased with their achievements here, gaining 16 seats. However, they are seven seats short of a majority, and will be considering their options to potentially form a new administration.



Lib-Dems hold the cards in next steps for NOC council

But Tories avoid wipeout

Just after the final vote was counted, leader of Wiltshire Council Richard Clewer stated that the results were 'deeply frustrating'. This is perhaps an understatement as he reflected on the results that have seen the Tories usurped in a flagship authority that they have controlled for decades.

The scale of the Tory losses was substantial, especially in and around Wiltshire's towns which are now Lib Dem bastions. They were driven out of Chippenham and Trowbridge and also lost previously untouchable rural strongholds such as the By Brook division by six votes which was represented by Cabinet Member for Planning, Nick Botterill.

As with the rest of the country, this was an excellent night for Reform, who added ten seats to their tally from a standing start. They not only put themselves on the scene in many locations, they also had a significant effect on Lib Dem / Tory marginals, splitting the centre-right vote.

Looking forward, Lib Dem Leader Cllr Ian Thorne will be studying the Maths very carefully as he tries to carve out a coalition to reach the magic number of 50 councillors. With his Lib Dems on 43, they will be unlikely to be able to govern alone; he may focus on the 7 Independent members (unchanged from 2021). Initial indications are that the Lib Dems are confident a deal can be done and there is a clear route for them to govern.

Labour's performance mirrored the wider disappointment of council results up and down the country. They are reduced to one seat in Salisbury, represented by stalwart Ricky Rogers. However, given the delicate balance of power, he may have an essential role in the council moving forward in a potential anti-Tory coalition.

As Councillor Clewer noted, it is cold comfort for his group that they avoided the complete electoral collapse experienced elsewhere and they remain a significant presence. It is highly likely that this group of councillors, long accustomed to holding power, will now have to adjust to life on the opposition benches, at least for now.

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