



The May 2025 elections results report

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Clive Heemsker
TUSC National Election Agent
May 5th 2025

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Introduction and overview

Every year since 2011, when the Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition (TUSC) all-Britain steering committee first authorised candidates to stand widely under its umbrella, we have published the detailed results of all those who used the coalition's name on the ballot paper or one of its registered descriptions.

We are continuing this tradition in the current report with the results tables, including for those anti-austerity, anti-war candidates known to TUSC before May 1st, beginning on page nine.

This open and transparent approach has been adopted on the basis that no serious political advance can be made with exaggerations, empty boasts or wishful thinking replacing an honest accounting of strengths and weaknesses. And a belief that while election results are not the only metric, they are an important 'snapshot' of how big swathes of the population are thinking, both at the point in time when the election takes place and by comparison with previous contests.

That is so this year too even though the May elections only covered one-third of voters in England, the sparsest set of polls since the early 1970s as a wholesale re-organisation of councils to further curb local democratic accountability (with elections cancelled) got underway. Just 5.2 million people voted on May 1st; in the council elections that went ahead in 23 local authorities, in six mayoral contests, and the parliamentary by-election in Runcorn & Helsby.

But despite that limitation the results still delivered a searing insight into the political situation of fragmentation and alienation from establishment politics developing just ten months into the new New Labour government of Sir Keir Starmer.

Of the 5.2 million votes cast, Reform won 1.6 million (31%), decisively ahead of the Tories on 1.19 million (23%) who lost control of every council they led going into these elections. The Liberal Democrats polled 846,000 votes (16%), Labour 786,000 (15%) – also losing control of the only council they led – and the Greens 467,000 (9%). The vacuum of working-class political representation, and the absence of a mass vehicle to fill it at this stage, could not be clearer.

The intervention into these elections by the anti-cuts and anti-war left was extremely modest, standing candidates in just under ten percent of the council wards or divisions with elections, around 150 seats in total plus two mayoral contests. These included 105 candidates who used one of the Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition (TUSC) descriptions, while others appeared on the ballot paper as independents or local community candidates or stood for other left-wing parties.

The total vote on May 1st for 'independents, local parties and others' was 306,000 (6%) but the vast bulk of these were for right-wing or localist 'independents and others'. The votes recorded by the anti-austerity, anti-war candidates listed in this report amount to just 27,147, with seven of them elected.

Nevertheless, everyone who put themselves forward had the courage to stand against the establishment politicians while other forces with more weight and authority stood aside.

And, as discussed below, their experiences can contribute to the debate so urgently needed now on how a new mass party of the working class can be created to meet the tasks ahead.

The alienation from establishment politics just got deeper

As TUSC argued in its analysis of last year's general election (see <https://www.tusc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/2024-GE-The-TUSC-Fact-File.pdf>), the Starmer government came to power with an extremely shallow social base, contrary to the establishment media's immediate post-election narrative of 2024 as 'the best ever' Labour result.

The turnout, we wrote, "was the only the second time, after 2001, that participation in a general election had fallen to below 60% of registered voters since December 1918, when soldiers were demobilising from the trenches of world war one". The combined share of the vote won by the Conservatives and Sir Keir's Labour was 57.4%. "Never before", we went on, "since the Labour Party first contested a majority of seats in the 1918 election, has the combined share for Labour and the Tories been so low".

And with Starmer winning the support of just 20.1% of registered voters, the report noted, "no administration since the introduction of universal (male) suffrage in 1918 has ever governed with the support of a lower share of the total electorate".

"All these factors", we said, "raise the central question. Can this be a stable social base for the coming second age of austerity, privatisation, war and climate crisis retreats that the Starmer government will attempt to impose on us?".

The May 1st elections are a clear answer to that; a continuation and deepening of a profound alienation from establishment politics with, at this stage, Reform the chief beneficiary.

With its winning 31% share of the vote Reform secured 41% of the councillors up for election with, ironically, the 'first-past-the-post' system (re-introduced for mayoral elections by the Tories in the 2022 Elections Act with Labour's acquiescence) exacerbating the situation. Reform won 677 council seats compared to 317 for the Conservatives and 99 for Labour – taking control of councils in Derbyshire, Kent, Lancashire, Lincolnshire, North Northamptonshire, Nottinghamshire, Staffordshire, and West Northamptonshire from the Tories, Durham from no overall control, and Doncaster from Labour.

They also won the inaugural elections for the new combined authority mayoralities of Greater Lincolnshire and Hull and East Yorkshire, and the parliamentary by-election in Runcorn & Helsby. The combined share of the actual votes cast in all the contests on May 1st for the Tories and Labour was just 38%, a stark measure of a political establishment in crisis.

But that score in fact was more than the BBC's 'projected national share of the vote' calculation, taking into account those who couldn't vote on May 1st in England, Scotland and Wales. This had Reform at 30%, Labour second at 20%, the Lib Dems at 17%, the Tories fourth with 15%, and the Greens at 11%.

A combined share for Labour and the Tories of 35%. And this is just ten months in to Starmer's rule.

The 'turquoise menace' is real with the need for a new, mass workers' party to meet it even more urgent. But it wasn't the only sign of a growing fury looking for an outlet and a full assessment, with a sense of proportion, is also necessary: including pointers to how a mass working class political alternative can be built.

Lessons for the new party debate

One strand in the process of how a new workers party can develop that was not widely in play in May's election, but which was identified in the TUSC 2024 general election Fact File report, was the historic shift away from Labour by workers and others from a Muslim background that took place in July 2024.

Labour's absolute vote went down to 9.7 million in 2024 from the 10.27 million won under Jeremy Corbyn in 2019, a fall of five percent. But in the 92 parliamentary constituencies where more than a tenth of the population identified as Muslim, Labour's vote in July 2024 fell from 2.41 million to 1.58 million, a drop of 828,021, or 34%. If that had been a uniform trend, that would have meant a fall in Labour's vote of well over three million.

"But that is the point", we wrote in The Fact File. "As the acquiescence with Israel's war on the Palestinians shows, following the lead of the US, Starmer's Labour serves completely the interests of the capitalist system, in this case the requirements of the international power relations that keep the system in place".

"It isn't just Muslims who have protested over Gaza and nor is the discontent with Starmer's Labour of workers from a Muslim background limited to that. But at this moment they are ahead of other sections of the working class in their majority, which explains the differential in the overall vote, [and] the victory of the four independents in Dewsbury & Batley, Birmingham, Leicester and Blackburn" alongside Jeremy Corbyn in Islington North.

In May, however, only six of the list of 92 parliamentary constituencies were in local authorities which had elections. That included Preston, and it was in this city that the anti-austerity, anti-war candidates listed in this report had their best results.

Led by the socialist former city councillor (2003-2015) Michael Lavalette, who had won a strong second place finish in Preston's general election contest with 8,715 votes and a 21.8% share, three anti-war independents were elected to Lancashire county council. The fire of the Gaza solidarity anti-war movement is still burning. But the task remains to mobilise organised working-class forces with an authority amongst other sections of our class – which means, critically, the trade unions – to create a new, mass workers party that can provide a real alternative to capitalism in the interests of us all.

So what lessons can be drawn from the May elections for the now ever-more urgent debate on a new mass workers party?

No existing electoral formation is authoritative enough to be 'the alternative'

TUSC is not, and has never presented itself to be, the broader vehicle of working-class political representation that is needed but rather a lever to help bring it about. The forces currently involved in our coalition are not at this stage authoritative enough for it to be seen as a mass alternative to the 'big five' parties.

That was confirmed even by the best TUSC result achieved on May 1st, the 891 votes (16.9%) won by Andy Hiles in Doncaster council's Norton & Askern electoral district, behind the Reform victors but ahead of one of the Labour candidates in the three-seat ward and the Conservative, Liberal Democrat and Green candidates. But Andy also stood in the mayor of Doncaster election and, in that ballot, polled 393 votes.

Obviously then there were voters in Norton & Askern who were prepared to vote for a TUSC candidate but, when considering the mayoral contest – widely seen as a three-way fight between Labour, Reform and the Conservatives – didn't see TUSC as a sufficiently credible option. In fact, 2,206 votes were cast across the nine wards (out of 21) contested across Doncaster by a candidate using one of the TUSC descriptions.

And this applies equally to all the different existing electoral formations covered in this report. None are authoritative enough to be seen as 'the' alternative.

Being a sitting or ex-councillor helps establish authority but...

A lot of the work that any conscientious councillor does is solid but unspectacular support for local people week-in, week-out, helping residents on a whole range of issues from education and housing, to planning hearings, community services, and traffic control. That undoubtedly gives them authority and standing in their communities if they don't dissipate it by slavishly following the austerity agenda set by the invariably pro-Starmer council Labour group leaderships – with electoral consequences.

Outside of Preston, all the victories recorded in this report were won by sitting councillors, in Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and Scarborough. And of the other eleven double figure vote shares won – in Cherwell, Doncaster, Kent, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Northumberland, Nottinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Rochdale and Warwickshire – eight were achieved by sitting or former councillors for the areas involved.

But, of course, not every candidate who is prepared to stand up to the establishment politicians in the process of fighting for a new working class alternative can have the reputation of an already established councillor. You have to lose some to win some.

Standing as 'Independent' gets more votes but not qualitatively so

Under Britain's election laws, candidates are only allowed to use a description on the ballot paper next to their name other than the word 'Independent' if that description has been registered with the Electoral Commission by a recognised organisation like TUSC.

The results reports do suggest that even alternative independent candidates who were not sitting or former councillors polled slightly better than candidates who appeared on the ballot paper with a registered party description next to their name. In a context of the deep alienation from establishment politics already described, the word 'Independent' is not unattractive.

But it did not have a qualitatively different effect for those candidates, who gained perhaps a two or three percentage share of the vote more. That includes those candidates who used the newly registered TUSC description *Independent Trade Union and Socialist Candidate*.

When there were 560 or so candidates standing this year as 'Independent' or for a registered local community party, the case for socialists, trade unionists, anti-war activists or working class community campaigners not to distinguish themselves as something different on the ballot paper has not been made.

All of these questions and more are issues to discuss in a situation where, at this point, the authoritative social forces that could establish a new, mass workers' party are still to be mobilised but elections take place and still need to be fought. ■

A note on statistical methods

The results tables include a figure for the percentage of the vote won by TUSC in each council ward contested.

How this figure is worked out is straightforward in a contest for one seat – the percentage figure for the TUSC candidate being the percentage of all the valid votes that were cast.

But what about multi-seat contests, where two, three or more councillors are elected from the same ward? Particularly, for example, where the council only publishes the votes cast for each candidate but not the turnout, or the size of the electorate? How to present such results, particularly where a party fields just one candidate in a two or three-seat contest, is a controversial question of psephology. TUSC has been using the same method to calculate votes in multi-seat wards since the elections in 2011, which has the advantage of allowing a comparison across different years' election results.

In an example from the elections of 2011, in Leicester's three-seat Rushey Mead ward the single TUSC candidate polled 272 votes, ahead of one Liberal Democrat candidate but behind the other two. It was a fact that of the 5,524 people who voted in Rushey Mead (the turnout figures were published on this occasion) 4.9% of them used one of their three votes for TUSC. But they actually cast a total of 13,917 votes (which meant incidentally that 2,655 potential votes were not used, with some people only voting for one or two candidates). So how should TUSC's share of support in the ward be calculated?

It could have been presented as a percentage of the total votes cast, 1.9%, and some councils do publish the figures in this way. But that doesn't give a rounded representation of a party's support. The three Labour candidates, for example, between them received 7,990 votes, but that is more than the number of people (5,524 remember) who voted. On the other hand, if all the candidates' votes were presented as a percentage of the 5,524 actual voters, the total number of potential votes (if all were used) would be 300%.

So the method used is to record the TUSC vote (or the highest TUSC vote in a multi-seat ward with more than one TUSC candidate) as a percentage of the aggregate of the highest votes of all the parties contesting the ward, the highest vote being taken as a maximum expression of a particular party's support.

In the Rushey Mead example there wasn't much deviation from the percentage of ballots cast method. The aggregate of the highest Labour vote (2,789), the highest Independent (1,039), the Tories' highest vote (861), the top Lib Dem vote (556), and TUSC's 272 votes, came to a total of 5,517. On this calculation, TUSC again polled 4.9% in the ward.

This method is neither a 'correct' nor 'incorrect' way of presenting the support there for TUSC. It is just another method, with its limitations openly acknowledged.

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Elections 2025:

Results using a TUSC descriptor

Listed are the votes received by every council candidate who appeared using one of the TUSC-registered descriptions on the ballot paper on May 1st, with a percentage of the vote figure given for the candidate (see Note on Statistical Methods for how this was calculated in multi-seat wards).

There were 103 council candidates contesting seats in 21 local authorities in England, whose results are presented here in a regional breakdown, and a candidate for the Mayor of Doncaster. The election for one seat that had appeared on pre-election lists, in the Mansfield North division of Nottinghamshire County Council, was abandoned due to the sad death of the TUSC candidate, Karen Seymour – a committed socialist who had consistently stood in district and county seats in the town since 2011. The re-scheduled vote there will now be held in June.

Out of the council candidates, 96 stood in tier one or two local authorities with scheduled elections this year – 15 out of the 23 councils in that category. There was also one parish councillor seeking re-election in May – for Lanteglos-by-Fowey council in Cornwall – who was returned unopposed. The remaining six candidates stood in casual council by-elections that were called to run concurrently with the May polls (indicated with an asterisk).

Overall, just under seven percent of the county divisions and council wards with local elections this year (93 out of 1,394) had at least one candidate with a TUSC description on the ballot paper, the highest number of trade unionist and socialist candidates that have stood in this four-year election cycle since TUSC's formation (with elections previously in these seats in 2021, 2017 and 2013).

Eastern

Hertfordshire County Council

Bedwell	Steve Glennon	Ref 1,196; Lab 853; Con 422; LD 263; Green 227; TUSC 38 (1.3%) <i>Votes cast 2,999</i>
Broadwater	Helen Kerr	Ref 1,254; Con 949; Lab 811; LD 277; Green 228; TUSC 27 (0.8%) <i>Votes cast 3,546</i>
Central Watford & Oxhey	James O'Connor	LD 1,850; Ref 539; Lab 430; Con 283; Green 206; TUSC 33 (1.0%) <i>Votes cast 3,341</i>
Chells	Mark Gentleman	LD 1,556; Ref 1,095; Lab 407; Con 318; Green 128; TUSC 28 (0.8%) <i>Votes cast 3,532</i>
Cheshunt Central	Aaron Smith	Con 1,169; Ref 1,007; Lab 654; LD 161; Green 135; TUSC 27 (0.9%) <i>Votes cast 3,063</i>
Flamstead End & Turnford	Robert Landon	Ref 1,197; Con 1,169; Lab 411; Green 156; LD 107; BD 87; TUSC 21 (0.7%) <i>Votes cast 3,148</i>

Goffs Oak & Bury Green	Bea Gardner	Ref 1,472; Con 1,178; Lab 367; LD 234; Green 178; TUSC 13 (0.4%) <i>Votes cast 3,442</i>
Handside & Peartree	Mark Kerr	LD 1,532; Ref 845; Con 622; Lab 508; Green 219; TUSC 26 (0.7%) <i>Votes cast 3,752</i>
Hatfield East	Mark Pickersgill	Ref 661; Lab 612; Con 604; LD 384; Green 179; TUSC 16 (0.7%) <i>Votes cast 2,456</i>
Hertford St Andrews	Sean Figg	Green 1,194; Con 1,135; Ref 834; Lab 673; LD 204; TUSC 25 (0.6%) <i>Votes cast 4,065</i>
Hoddesdon North	Pauline Sulman	Con 1,460; Ref 1,302; Lab 384; Green 220; LD 170; UKIP 28; TUSC 21 (0.6%) <i>Votes cast 3,585</i>
Hoddesdon South	Josh Asker	Con 1,669; Ref 1,239; Green 371; Lab 314; LD 197; TUSC 20 (0.5%) <i>Votes cast 3,810</i>
North Watford	Derek Foster	LD 1,450; Lab 926; Ref 508; Con 244; Green 167; TUSC 46 (1.4%) ; HP 26 <i>Votes cast 3,367</i>
Old Stevenage	Trevor Palmer	Ref 1,283; Lab 980; Con 802; LD 331; Green 310; TUSC 29 (0.8%) <i>Votes cast 3,735</i>
Shephall	Barbara Clare	Ref 1,207; Lab 841; Con 622; LD 261; Green 175; TUSC 29 (0.9%) <i>Votes cast 3,135</i>
St Nicholas	Amber Gentleman	Ref 1,051; Lab 1,004; Con 815; LD 290; Green 257; TUSC 25 (0.7%) <i>Votes cast 3,442</i>
Waltham Cross	Christine Thomas	Con 939; Ref 843; Lab 691; LD 191; Green 182; TUSC 79 (2.7%) <i>Votes cast 2,925</i>
Ware North	Bryan Clare	Green 1,100; Ref 1,031; Con 845; LD 203; Lab 201; TUSC 9 (0.3%) <i>Votes cast 3,389</i>
West Watford	Mark O'Connor	Lab 1,323; LD 1,193; Ref 456; Con 314; Green 215; TUSC 47 (1.3%) <i>Votes cast 3,548</i>

Watford Borough Council*

Hollywell	Mark O'Connor	Lab 573; LD 532; Ref 294; Con 180; Green 126; TUSC 23 (1.3%) <i>Votes cast 1,728</i>
Oxhey	James O'Connor	LD 1,061; Ref 302; Con 136; Lab 132; Green 99; TUSC 10 (0.6%) <i>Votes cast 1,740</i>

East Midlands

Derbyshire County Council

Bolsover	Jon Dale	Ref 1,641; Lab 871; Con 372; Green 135; LD 108; HP 84; TUSC 62 (1.9%) <i>Votes cast 3,273</i>
Clowne & Barlborough	Dean Eggerton	Ref 2,008; Lab 743; Con 666; Green 181; LD 126; Ind 55; TUSC 31 (0.8%) <i>Votes cast 3,810</i>
Elmton with Creswell & Whitwell	Elaine Evans	Ref 1,708; Lab 729; Ind 397; Con 257; Green 176; TUSC 27 (0.8%) <i>Votes cast 3,294</i>
Hardwick	Robert Smith	Ref 1,925; Lab 772; Con 416; Green 201; Ind 129; TUSC 26 (0.7%)

Shirebrook & Pleasley	Ronnie Rogers	<i>Votes cast 3,469</i> Ref 1,733; Lab 666; Con 239; Ind 117; Green 94; LD 71; TUSC 59 (2.0%) <i>Votes cast 2,979</i>
South Normanton & Pinxton	Brian Loader	Ref 1,795; Con 732; Lab 460; Green 192; TUSC 28 (0.9%) <i>Votes cast 3,207</i>

Lincolnshire County Council

Park	Nick Parker	LD 808; Lab 597; Ref 440; Con 109; TUSC 90 (4.4%) <i>Votes cast 2,044</i>
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Nottinghamshire County Council

Blidworth	Kirsty Denman	Ref 1,122; Con 914; Ind 337; Lab 241; Green 76; LD 44; TUSC 21 (0.8%) <i>Votes cast 2,755</i>
Mansfield East (<i>two seats</i>)	Deborah Hodson	Ref 3,653; Ref 3,473; Lab 948; Con 947; Con 927; Lab 927; Green 402; TUSC 91 (1.5%) ; Ind 39 <i>Votes cast 6,080</i>
Mansfield South (<i>two seats</i>)	Denise Tooley-Okonkwo	Ref 2,349; Ref 2,027; Ind 1,809; Ind 1,230; Con 960; Lab 919; Lab 907; Con 669; Green 366; TUSC 66 (1.0%) <i>Votes cast 6,469</i>
Mansfield West (<i>two seats</i>)	Adam Brailsford; Lydia Smith	Ref 2,841; Ref 2,342; Lab 908; Lab 838; Ind 679; Con 418; Con 346; Green 324; Ind 276; TUSC 93 (1.8%) ; TUSC 70 <i>Votes cast 5,263</i>
Warsop	Paul Tooley-Okonkwo	Ref 1,564; Lab 797; Con 348; Green 180; TUSC 21 (0.7%) <i>Votes cast 2,910</i>

West Northamptonshire Council

Abington & Phippsville (<i>two seats</i>)	Alex Twigley	Lab 958; Lab 904; Ref 532; Ref 493; Con 303; Con 277; Green 274; Green 266; LD 221; LD 158; TUSC 51 (2.2%) <i>Votes cast 2,339</i>
Castle (<i>three seats</i>)	Katie Simpson	Lab 924; Lab 873; Lab 793; Ref 525; Ref 489; Green 482; Ref 412; Con 352; Con 326; LD 312; Con 293; Ind 181; TUSC 136 (4.5%) ; SDP 78 <i>Votes cast 2,990</i>
Far Cotton, Delapre & Briar Hill (<i>three seats</i>)	Seamus Smyth	Ind 1,332; Ref 807; Ref 759; Ref 695; Lab 521; Lab 505; Con 467; Lab 359; Green 303; Con 284; Con 259; LD 249; TUSC 92 (2.4%) <i>Votes cast 3,771</i>
Kingsley & Semilong (<i>two seats</i>)	Joshua Curtis	Ref 577; Lab 557; Lab 533; Ref 533; Con 278; Green 228; Con 213; Green 207; LD 171; LD 118; TUSC 37 (2.0%) <i>Votes cast 1,848</i>
Talavera (<i>two seats</i>)	Ashley Ritchie	Ref 651; Ref 602; Lab 553; Lab 485; Con 294; Con 290; LD 191; Green 188; TUSC 29 (1.5%) <i>Votes cast 1,906</i>

London

Lambeth*

Herne Hill & Loughborough Junction	Marco Tesei	Green 1,774; Lab 1,459; Con 183; Ref 135; LD 121; TUSC 30 (0.8%) ; SPGB 10 <i>Votes cast 3,718</i>
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North West

Chorley District Council*

Chorley East

Aamir Khansaheb

Ref 672; Lab 619; Con 160; Green 121;
TUSC 91 (5.4%); Ind 13
Votes cast 1,676

Lancashire County Council

Chorley Central

Jenny Hurley

Lab 1,307; Ref 1,300; Con 594; Green 383;
TUSC 96 (2.6%)
Votes cast 3,680

Chorley North

Aamir Khansaheb

Ref 1,140; Lab 984; Con 306; Green 251;
TUSC 72 (2.6%); Ind 23
Votes cast 2,776

Clayton with Whittle

Carole Sasaki

Lab 1,411; Ref 1,320; Con 653; LD 198;
Green 187; **TUSC 22 (0.6%)**
Votes cast 3,791

Euxton, Buckshore & Astley

Jacob Neal

Con 1,507; Ref 1,477; Lab 1,167; Green 240;
LD 147; **TUSC 30 (0.7%)**
Votes cast 4,568

Hoghton & Wheelton

Penelope Dawber

Ref 1,277; Lab 1,029; Con 679; Green 227;
LD 175; **TUSC 52 (1.5%)**
Votes cast 3,439

Leyland Central

Arif Khansaheb

Ref 1,539; Lab 1,099; Con 399; LD 195;
Green 118; **TUSC 23 (0.7%)**
Votes cast 3,373

Leyland South

Tahir Khansaheb

Ref 1,456; Lab 959; Con 756; LD 271;
Green 153; **TUSC 26 (0.7%)**
Votes cast 3,621

Preston East

Geoffrey Fielden

Ref 1,181; Lab 748; Con 364; LD 242;
Green 146; **TUSC 48 (1.8%)**
Votes cast 2,729

South East

Brighton and Hove*

Westbourne & Poets Corner

David Maples

Lab 894; Green 685; LD 598; Ref 258;
Con 129; Ind 93; **TUSC 91 (3.3%)**; Ind 7
Votes cast 2,755

Buckinghamshire Council

Aylesbury North (*two seats*)

Paul Tovey

LD 1,108; LD 1,094; Ref 507; Ref 437;
Lab 412; Lab 376; Con 358; Con 331;
Green 226; Ind 43; **TUSC 40 (1.5%)**
Votes cast 2,694

Oxford City Council*

Headington Hill & Northway

Agnieszka Kowalska

Lab 461; Ind 445; Green 158; Con 98; LD 62;
TUSC 30 (2.4%)
Votes cast 1,254

Oxfordshire County Council

Bartlemas

Hannah Chapman

Green 1,367; Lab 635; Ind 461; Ref 136;
LD 131; Con 65; **TUSC 20 (0.7%)**
Votes cast 2,815

Churchill & Lye Valley

James Giraldi

Lab 834; Ind 629; Ref 388; Green 253;
Con 163; LD 137; **TUSC 28 (1.2%)**
Votes cast 2,432

Cowley

James Morbin

Ind 1,299; Lab 704; Green 420; LD 249;
Ref 224; Con 65; Ind 29; **TUSC 25 (0.8%)**
Votes cast 3,015

Headington & Quarry	Agnieszka Kowalska	LD 1,451; Ind 659; Lab 585; Green 283; Ref 194; Con 80; TUSC 30 (0.9%) <i>Votes cast 3,282</i>
Isis	James Fernandes	Lab 1,346; Green 842; Ref 286; LD 203; Con 155; TUSC 33 (1.2%) <i>Votes cast 2,865</i>
Marston & Northway	Rachel Cox	Lab 1,091; Ind 913; Green 509; Ref 261; Con 161; LD 117; TUSC 30 (1.0%) <i>Votes cast 3,082</i>
Parks	Rosie Douglas-Brown	Green 687; Lab 365; Ind 265; LD 71; Ref 56; Con 40; AWP 10; TUSC 7 (0.7%) <i>Votes cast 1,501</i>

South West

Cornwall Council

Fowey, Tywardreath & Par	Rob Rooney	Ref 635; Lab 435; Con 374; LD 314; MK 197; TUSC 48 (2.4%) <i>Votes cast 2,003</i>
Gloweth, Malabar, Shortlanesend	Trevor Hall	Green 451; Ref 383; LD 268; Con 109; Lab 79; TUSC 9 (0.7%) <i>Votes cast 1,299</i>

Devon County Council

Ivybridge	Tony Rea	LD 1,210; Ref 876; Con 579; Ind 197; Green 113; Lab 90; TUSC 89 (2.8%) <i>Votes cast 3,154</i>
Newton Abbot North	Tobias Robshaw	Ref 1,008; LD 617; Ind 594; Con 509; Green 185; Lab 135; HP 29; TUSC 13 (0.4%) <i>Votes cast 3,090</i>
Newton Abbott South	Jane Haden	Ref 1,045; Ind 895; LD 570; Con 321; Green 155; Lab 115; TUSC 60 (1.9%) ; HP 7 <i>Votes cast 3,168</i>
St Davids & Haven Banks	Myles Hatcher	Green 1,486; Lab 777; Ref 484; Con 260; LD 197; TUSC 38 (1.2%) <i>Votes cast 3,242</i>

Gloucestershire County Council

Barton & Tredworth	Sue Powell	Con 855; LD 504; Lab 382; Ref 331; Green 143; Ind 138; TUSC 26 (1.1%) <i>Votes cast 2,379</i>
Benhall & Up Hatherley	Christian Dwyer	LD 2,061; Ref 1,011; Con 644; Lab 178; Green 178; Ind 110; TUSC 18 (0.4%) <i>Votes cast 4,200</i>
Coney Hill & Matson	James Collett	Ind 798; Ref 637; Lab 335; Con 227; LD 170; SLP 30; TUSC 10 (0.5%) <i>Votes cast 2,207</i>
Hesters Way & Springbank	Joe Waters	LD 987; Ref 746; Con 307; Green 227; Lab 84; CPA 22; TUSC 14 (0.6%) <i>Votes cast 2,387</i>
Kingsholm & Wotton	John Harrison	LD 1,326; Ref 647; Con 410; Lab 297; Green 194; Ind 37; TUSC 31 (1.1%) <i>Votes cast 2,942</i>
Pittville & St Paul's	Sam Coxon	LD 1,429; Ref 557; Con 402; Green 394; Lab 135; TUSC 17 (0.6%) <i>Votes cast 2,934</i>
St Mark's & St Peters	Billy Jones	LD 1,413; Ref 709; Con 282; Green 256; Lab 150; TUSC 27 (1.0%) <i>Votes cast 2,837</i>
Stonehouse	Adam Goulcher	Ref 825; Green 804; Lab 486; Ind 425; Con 345; LD 122; TUSC 9 (0.3%)

Stroud Central

Chris Moore

Votes cast 3,016

Green 2,166; Lab 799; Ref 697; Con 309;
LD 195; **TUSC 49 (1.2%)**; SPGB 25

Votes cast 4,240

West Midlands

Staffordshire County Council

Cannock Town

Gareth Knox

Ref 1,982; Con 942; Lab 580; Green 318;
TUSC 30 (0.8%)

Votes cast 3,852

Stafford North

Allan Gray

Ref 1,058; Con 1,011; Lab 793; Green
250; LD 216; **TUSC 39 (1.2%)**

Votes cast 3,367

Kidsgrove

Becky Carter

Ref 1,878; Lab 787; Con 739; **TUSC 99
(2.8%)**

Votes cast 3,503

Warwickshire County Council

Arbury

Eve Miller

Ref 1,118; Con 449; Lab 378; LD 121;
TUSC 54 (2.5%)

Votes cast 2,120

Bedworth East

Steve Gee

Ref 1,083; Lab 472; Con 405; Green 169;
LD 68; **TUSC 21 (0.9%)**

Votes cast 2,218

Bedworth Central

George Clark

Ref 1,563; Lab 421; Con 346; LD 126;
TUSC 60 (2.4%)

Votes cast 2,516

Bedworth North

Mark Burdett

Ref 1,191; Con 743; Lab 372; LD 98;
TUSC 40 (1.6%)

Votes cast 2,444

Bedworth West

Eileen Hunter

Ref 1,097; Con 556; Lab 344; Green 141;
LD 53; **TUSC 26 (1.2%)**

Votes cast 2,217

Bulkington & Whitestone

Paul Reilly

Ref 1,215; Con 1,185; Lab 349; Green
164; LD 101; **TUSC 18 (0.6%)**

Votes cast 3,032

Camp Hill

Chris Gamble

Ref 947; Lab 357; Con 294; Green 246;
LD 75; **TUSC 16 (0.8%)**

Votes cast 1,935

Galley Common

Catherine Mosey

Ref 1,289; Con 449; Lab 369; Green 200;
LD 119; **TUSC 30 (1.2%)**

Votes cast 2,456

Nuneaton Abbey

Keith Claridge

Ref 654; Lab 572; Con 254; Green 240;
TUSC 225 (11.2%); LD 67

Votes cast 2,012

Nuneaton East

Josh Loveridge

Ref 1,269; Con 955; Green 465; Lab 299;
LD 119; **TUSC 13 (0.4%)**

Votes cast 3,120

Stockingford

Daniel Webb

Ref 1,036; Lab 366; Con 308; Green 161;
LD 50; **TUSC 22 (1.1%)**

Votes cast 1,943

Weddington

Bernadette Quinn

Green 1,715; Ref 1,070; Con 732; Lab
215; LD 81; **TUSC 15 (0.4%)**

Votes cast 3,828

Worcestershire County Council

Rainbow Hill & Fort Royal

Mark Davies

Lab 794; Green 768; Ref 595; Con 185;
LD 70; **TUSC 24 (1.0%)**

Votes cast 2,436

Riverside

Archie Harrison

Green 1,280; Con 726; Ref 508; Lab 267;
LD 102; **TUSC 18 (0.6%)**

Votes cast 2,901

Yorkshire

Doncaster City Council

Mayor of Doncaster

	Andy Hiles	Lab 23,805; Ref 23,107; Con 18,982; Green 2,449; Yorks 1,164; SDP 929; LD 895; BD 448; WPB 434; TUSC 393 (0.5%) ; Ind 245; Ind 157 <i>Votes cast 73,008</i>
Adwick & Carcroft (<i>three seats</i>)	Ashley Mulligan	Ref 1,588; Ref 1,450; Ref 1,435; Lab 966; Lab 922; Lab 866; Green 327; Con 291; LD 158; TUSC 105 (3.1%) <i>Votes cast 3,435</i>
Bentley (<i>three seats</i>)	Steve Flint	Ref 1,595; Ref 1,554; Lab 1,328; Ref 1,238; Lab 1,137; Lab 1,131; Con 435; Green 359; Green 280; LD 188; TUSC 127 (3.1%) <i>Votes cast 4,032</i>
Bessacarr (<i>three seats</i>)	Stacy Johnson	Con 1,412; Ref 1,405; Ref 1,282; Lab 1,214; Ref 1,173; Lab 1,108; Con 1,091; Lab 1,029; Con 889; Green 448; TUSC 97 (2.1%) <i>Votes cast 4,576</i>
Conisbrough (<i>three seats</i>)	Steve Merriman	Ref 1,577; Ref 1,544; Ref 1,453; Lab 1,379; Lab 1,353; Lab 1,088; Con 291; Green 237; LD 169; TUSC 156 (4.0%) ; BD 111 <i>Votes cast 3,920</i>
Edenthorpe & Kirk Sandall (<i>two seats</i>)	Gregory Beaumont	Ref 1,239; Lab 992; Lab 946; Ref 808; Con 335; Ind 328; Green 243; TUSC 69 (2.2%) <i>Votes cast 3,206</i>
Finningley (<i>three seats</i>)	Heather Nicholls	Con 1,896; Con 1,894; Con 1,720; Ref 1,579; Ref 1,347; Lab 1,206; Lab 1,173; Lab 1,109; Green 449; LD 394; LD 228; LD 195; TUSC 133 (2.3%) <i>Votes cast 5,657</i>
Norton & Askern (<i>three seats</i>)	Andy Hiles	Ref 1,968; Ref 1,842; Ref 1,758; Lab 1,036; Lab 913; TUSC 891 (16.9%) ; Lab 831; Con 617; Con 462; Green 379; LD 378 <i>Votes cast 5,269</i>
Thorne & Moorends (<i>three seats</i>)	Adam Holgate	Ref 1,692; Ref 1,528; Ref 1,439; Lab 1,407; Lab 1,329; Lab 1,120; Con 352; Con 347; Green 253; TUSC 127 (3.3%) <i>Votes cast 3,831</i>
Town (<i>three seats</i>)	Tosh McDonald; Nikki McDonald; Mal Perkins	Lab 1,567; Lab 1,468; Lab 1,433; Ref 999; Ref 962; Ref 948; Green 719; Con 454; Con 418; LD 273; TUSC 204 (4.8%) ; TUSC 199 ; Ind 103; TUSC 98 ; Ind 89 <i>Votes cast 4,216</i>

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Elections 2025:

Other left of Labour candidates

Listed below are the results of other anti-austerity and anti-war local election candidates that TUSC was aware of – and advertised on the TUSC website – who stood on May 1st.

The biggest category are candidates who appeared on the ballot paper as independents who were either former Labour Party members – or, sometimes, councillors or ex-councillors – or others from a Labour background or not, who stood in opposition to Starmer's austerity and war agenda.

The best estimate – from the ElectionMaps website – is that 461 candidates had a straight 'Independent' description in May's polls, with a further 103 appearing for local independent parties with a town or district-based extra description, registered with the Electoral Commission.

A big proportion of these were Tories by another name. Nearly one in twelve of the councillors that faced re-election in May were elected last time and sat in their town and county halls as 'Independents', while presiding over cuts and other austerity measures. 'Independents', in fact, form the fourth largest group in UK local government and where they control councils they have acted no differently from establishment party politicians.

But the individuals here are those who were recommended for support by local constituent organisations of TUSC and others who could properly be described as anti-austerity and anti-war candidates even though, on this occasion, they decided to stand as independents or as registered local community parties. It was compiled with the help also of the Collective, a network involving key supporters of Jeremy Corbyn from his time as Labour leader who are now seeking to build the foundations for a new left political party.

The other set of candidates are those from smaller left-wing parties which TUSC and its constituent organisations, locally and nationally, have attempted to liaise with to avoid electoral clashes: the Communist Party of Britain, politically linked to the *Morning Star* newspaper; the Workers Party, with just seven candidates on May 1st; and the Socialist Workers Party (SWP), the Transform Party, and Arthur Scargill's Socialist Labour Party, who stood in one seat each.

All of these candidates understandably wanted to promote their own party and its policies. But, of course, they could still have done so if they had used one of the TUSC-registered descriptors – the SWP candidate actually appeared on the ballot paper as 'Independent' – while, under the TUSC rules, retaining full control of their election leaflets and social media campaigning. ■

Independents and community parties

Out of the over 560 candidates in May who appeared on the ballot paper as an Independent or on behalf of registered local community parties there is likely to be more than just those listed below who were anti-austerity, anti-war candidates. But these are the ones we knew of before polling day and were included in the pre-election list published on the TUSC website.

Independents

North Tyneside Mayor

Lab 16,230; Ref 15,786; Con 11,017; Green 3,980; LD 3,453; **Cath Davies (Ind – ex-Lab cllr) 1,780 (3.3%)**; Ind 1,460
Votes cast: 53,706

Council results

Local authority	Division or ward	Candidate's name	
Cherwell *	Banbury Cross & Neithrop	Ex-Cllr Simon Garrett	Con 729; Lab 690; Ind 412 (18.8%) ; LD 358 <i>Votes cast: 2,189</i>
Cherwell *	Grimsbury & Hightown	Ex-Cllr Cassi Bellingham	Lab 639; Con 600; Ind 289 (14.8%) ; LD 216; Green 207 <i>Votes cast: 1,951</i>
Derbyshire County Council	Whaley Bridge	Cllr Ruth George	Ind 2,662 (57.0%) ; Con 785; Ref 711; LD 223; Lab 168; Green 118 <i>Votes cast: 4,667</i>
Kent County Council	Margate	Cllr Barry Lewis	Ref 1,332; Lab 1,099; Ind 629 (17.3%) ; Con 333; LD 236 <i>Votes cast: 3,630</i>
Lancashire County Council	Preston Central East	Ex-Cllr Michael Lavalette	Ind 1,782 (47.9%) ; Lab 884; Ref 556; LD 204; Con 189; Green 107 <i>Votes cast: 3,722</i>
Lancashire County Council	Preston City	Yousuf Motala	Ind 989 (33.7%) ; Lab 893; Ref 476; Green 194; Con 193; LD 186 <i>Votes cast: 2,931</i>
Lancashire County Council	Preston South East	Almas Razakazi	Ind 750 (29.3%) ; Ref 714; Lab 709; Con 152; LD 128; Green 104 <i>Votes cast: 2,557</i>
Lancashire County Council	Preston South West	Emma Mead	LD 1,411; Ref 1,145; Lab 638; Con 183; Green 116; Ind 58 (1.6%) <i>Votes cast: 3,551</i>
Leicestershire County Council	Castle Donington & Kegworth	Cllr Ray Sutton	Ref 1,146; Ind 691 (21.2%) ; Con 606; Lab 348; LD 279; Green 120; AWP 79 <i>Votes cast: 3,266</i>
Lincolnshire County Council	Colsterworth Rural	John Morgan	Con 1,018; Ref 778; Lab 220; Green 172; LD 115; Ind 109 (4.5%) <i>Votes cast: 2,412</i>
Lincolnshire County Council	Grantham South	Cllr Charmaine Morgan	Ref 575; Ind 491 (25.6%) ; Con 400; Lab

Northumberland County Council	Prudhoe North & Wylam	Cllr Holly Waddell	212; Green 135; LD 104 <i>Votes cast: 1,917</i> Lab 679; Ind 475 (26.2%) ; Ref 327; Con 271; LD 58 <i>Votes cast: 1,810</i> Con 1,103; Ref 661; Lab 522; Green 162; LD 155; Ind 63 (2.4%) ; <i>Votes cast: 2,666</i> Con 713; Lab 696; Ind 368 (16.4%) ; LD 253; Green 219 <i>Votes cast: 2,249</i> Lab 567; Ref 512; Con 430; LD 170; Green 146; Ind 98 (5.1%) ; <i>Votes cast: 1,923</i> Lab 847; Ref 712; Con 368; Green 151; LD 125; Ind 119 (5.1%) ; <i>Votes cast: 2,322</i> Ind 838 (27.6%) ; Ref 689; Lab 546; Green 528; Green 473; Con 439; Con 434; Con 420 <i>Votes cast: 3,040</i>
Oxfordshire County Council	Easington	Phil Richards	
Oxfordshire County Council	Grimsbury & Castle	Ex-Cllr Cassi Bellingham	
Oxfordshire County Council	Hardwick	Ex-Cllr Simon Garrett	
Oxfordshire County Council	Ruscote	Julie Battison	
Scarborough TC * <i>(three seats)</i>	Weaponness & Ramshill	Cllr Rich Maw	

* The Cherwell district council contests were by-elections held on the same day as the Oxfordshire County Council elections. The Scarborough candidate was for the inaugural town council election.

Broxtowe Alliance

This is a local community independents party formed at the start of 2025 by 20 councillors on Broxtowe District Council in Nottinghamshire who resigned from Labour in protest at its austerity policies and their exclusion from the Labour Party candidates' shortlist for the May county council elections. They stood six candidates in May, listed below, including four sitting councillors as indicated.

There is also another local party in Broxtowe registered with the Electoral Commission, the Broxtowe Independent Group (BIG), but, formed as they were from former Liberal Democrat councillors and independents who stood as such even during the time of Jeremy Corbyn's leadership of the Labour Party, they are not included here as anti-austerity or anti-war candidates.

Local authority	Division	Candidate's name	
Nottinghamshire County Council	Beeston Central & Rylands	Cllr Teresa Cullen	BA 1,035 (26.9%) ; Lab 1,008; Ref 798; Con 431; Green 391; LD 191 <i>Votes cast: 3,854</i>
Nottinghamshire County Council	Eastwood	Cllr Milan Radulovic	Ref 1,326; BA 898 (28.7%) ; Lab 411; Con 256; LD 131; Green 103 <i>Votes cast: 3,125</i>
Nottinghamshire County Council	Nuthall & Kimberley	David Kirwan	Ref 1,253; Con 1,086; Lab 804; BA 287 (7.8%) ; Green 165; LD 106 <i>Votes cast: 3,701</i>
Nottinghamshire County Council <i>(two seats)</i>	Stapleford & Broxtowe Centra	Cllr John 'Maggie' McGrath	Ref 2,372; Ref 2,059; BIG 1,279; BA 943 (12.3%) ; Lab 829; Con 829; Con 792; LD 728;

**Nottinghamshire
County Council** (*two
seats*)

Toton, Chilwell &
Attenborough

Cllr Shaun
Dannheimer &
Stephen Jeremiah

LD 709; Lab 641;
Green 615; BIG 596;
Ind 67
Votes cast: 7,662
Ref 1,807; Lab 1,684;
Con 1,637; Ref 1,601;
BA 1,587 (18.9%);
Con 1,581; **BA 1,468;**
Lab 1,397; LD 892; LD
866; Green 770;
Green 569
Votes cast: 8,377

Majority

Majority is a party, registered with the Electoral Commission from December 2024, initiated out of the campaign for Jamie Driscoll's independent stand for the North East Mayoral seat in May 2024, in which he polled 126,652 votes (28.2%). In this year's elections it supported one candidate appearing as an independent in Northumberland County Council, Holly Waddell, and one candidate (below) under its registered name.

Local authority
**Northumberland
County Council**

Division
Rothbury

Candidate's name
Karen Weech

Ind 1,120; LD 471; Ref
370; Con 201; **Maj 127**
(5.1%); Ind 98; Lab 65;
Green 62
Votes cast: 2,514

Oxford Community Socialists

A registered party which stood one candidate, a former Oxford city councillor, in May.

Local authority
**Oxfordshire County
Council**

Division
Barton & Sandhills

Candidate's name
Ex-Cllr Jabu Nala-
Hartley

Lab 647; Ref 448; Con
205; LD 196; Green
156; **OCS 147 (8.2%);**
Votes cast: 1,799

Social Justice Party

The Social Justice Party is a North Yorkshire-based party who, this year, stood one candidate, for the inaugural election of Scarborough Town Council.

Local authority
Scarborough TC

Ward
Northstead

Candidate's name
Eric Barnes

Ref 636; Ref 565; Ref
539; Lab 449; Green
378; **SJP 322 (16.0%);**
Green 284; Green
275; Con 223; Con
206; Con 185
Votes cast: 2,008

Other left-wing parties

Communist Party of Britain

The Communist Party stood four council candidates in four different local authorities.

Local Authority	Division or ward	Candidate's name	
Devon County Council	Tiverton East	Caio Whitmore	Ref 1,121; LD 980; Con 739; Green 200; Ind 154; Lab 101; CPB 13 (0.4%) ; <i>Votes cast: 3,308</i>
Hertfordshire County Council	St Albans Central	Mark Ewington	Green 1,801; LD 1,795; Ref 352; Con 311; Lab 197; CPB 25 (0.6%) ; <i>Votes cast: 4,481</i>
Leicestershire County Council	Market Harborough West	Peter Whalen	Con 1,008; Green 989; Ref 924; LD 760; Lab 353; CPB 31 (0.8%) ; <i>Votes cast: 4,065</i>
Wiltshire	Kington	Alex Hall	Con 896; LD 563; Ref 346; CPB 26 (1.4%) ; <i>Votes cast: 1,831</i>

Socialist Labour Party

The Socialist Labour Party stood one council candidate in May's elections, in Gloucestershire.

Local authority	Ward	Candidate's name	
Gloucestershire County Council	Coney Hill & Matson	Kazol Ahmed	Ind 798; Ref 637; Lab 335; Con 227; LD 170; SLP 30 (1.4%) ; TU 10 <i>Votes cast 2,207</i>

Socialist Workers Party

The SWP was part of TUSC from 2010 to 2017 but, in that year, withdrew from the TUSC steering committee after deciding to stop standing in elections. The party has amended its position but, despite offers from TUSC for it to resume its place in the coalition, it has done so with its candidates appearing as 'Independent'. That was the designation used by its candidate in a Chesterfield Borough Council by-election on May 1st, on a ballot paper which also had a candidate appearing as 'Chesterfield Independents'.

Local authority	Ward	Candidate's name	
Chesterfield	Brampton East & Boythorpe	Jane Hindle	LD 410; Ref 350; Lab 235; Ind 90 (7.6%) ; Grn 48; Con 42; Ind 9 <i>Votes cast 1,184</i>

Transform

Transform, registered with the Electoral Commission as a party, stood one council candidate in May in its own name.

Local authority	Ward	Candidate's name	
Hertfordshire County Council	Hemel Hempstead Town	Gary Ruff	LD 1,332; Con 865; Ref 757; Lab 345; Green 203; Transform 33 (0.9%) ; <i>Votes cast: 3,535</i>

Workers' Party of Britain

After standing 152 candidates in the general election ten months ago the Workers' Party fielded just seven candidates on May 1st, in the Runcorn & Helsby parliamentary by-election, the Doncaster mayoral election, one candidate in four of the 23 local authorities with scheduled elections in May, and one candidate in a council by-election, also held on May 1st, in Rochdale.

Runcorn & Helsby parliamentary by-election

Reform 12,645; Lab 12,639; Con 2,341; Green 2,314; LD 942; Lib 454; Ind 363; Ind 269;

Peter Ford (WPB) 164 (0.5%); Rejoin EU 129; MRLP 128; ED 95; SDP 68; ECP 50

Votes cast 32,655

Doncaster Mayor

Lab 23,805; Ref 23,107; Con 18,982; Green 2,449; Yorks 1,164; SDP 929; LD 895; BD 448;

Ahsan Jamil (WPB) 434 (0.6%); TUSC 393; Ind 245; Ind 157

Votes cast 73,008

Council results

Local authority	Division or ward	Candidate's name	
Gloucestershire County Council	Hempsted & Westgate	Steve Gower	LD 735; Con 602; Ref 594; Lab 319; Green 149; Ind 40; WPB 34 (1.4%) <i>Votes cast: 2,473</i>
Lancashire County Council	Burnley Central East	Rayyan Fiass	Ind 1,357; Ref 1,089; Lab 485; Green 292; Con 255; Ind 68; WPB 39 (1.1%) <i>Votes cast: 3,585</i>
Rochdale *	Balderstone & Kirkholt	Laura Pugh	Ref 766; Lab 624; WPB 398 (17.0%) ; Con 212; Ind 180; LD 109; Green 65 <i>Votes cast 2,354</i>
Staffordshire County Council	Two Cotes/Two Rivers	Adam Goodfellow	Ref 1,972; Lab 806; Con 788; Green 232; UKIP 57; WPB 56 (1.4%) <i>Votes cast: 3,911</i>
Warwickshire County Council	Attleborough	John Homer	Ref 1,014; Con 376; Lab 367; Green 153; WPB 104 (4.9%) ; LD 102 <i>Votes cast: 2,116</i>

* This was a council by-election in a ward where the Workers Party had polled 19.2% (395 votes) in May 2024.