



# Elections 2016

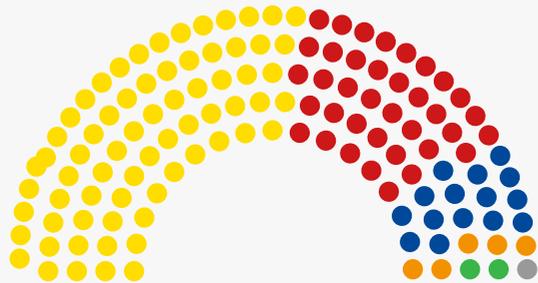
**Whitehouse Analysis & Insight:**  
Scottish Parliament, Welsh Assembly &  
English Council Elections



# Scottish Parliament Elections 2016

## Results and Insight

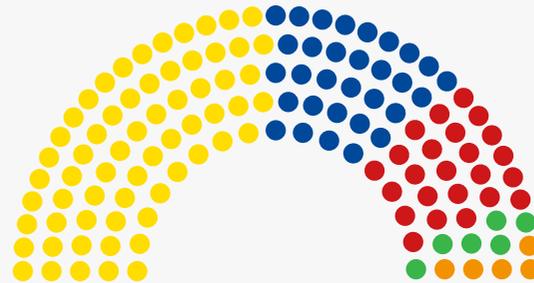
2011 Scottish Parliament



● SNP: 69  
● Scottish Labour: 37  
● Scottish Conservatives: 15  
● Scottish Liberal Democrats: 5  
● Scottish Greens: 2  
● Independents: 1

129 seats in total

2016 Scottish Parliament



● SNP: 63 (-6)  
● Scottish Conservatives: 31 (+16)  
● Scottish Labour: 24 (-13)  
● Scottish Greens: 6 (+4)  
● Scottish Liberal Democrats: 5 (-)

129 seats in total

### Key developments

- ✘ The SNP fail to reach the 65 seats required to govern as a majority – denting prospects of a second referendum.
- ✘ The Conservatives are the new Official Opposition, having secured 31 seats. The resurgent Tories push Labour into third place – their lowest position for over a century.

“The biggest development is Labour’s poor performance”

#### Analysis

The SNP has narrowly missed out on a majority – with the quasi-proportional system depriving them of additional regional seats. However, the Party’s dominance in Scotland remains unmatched, securing a million votes for the first time in a Scottish Election. Deputy-leader Stewart Hosie has stated his Party will work with the opposition to get legislation through. There’s precedent here: the SNP competently ruled as a minority administration when they first came to power in 2007.

The biggest development is Labour’s poor performance. Adopting an anti-austerity, high taxation platform, the party failed to attract sufficient votes and has been pushed into third place. Replacing Labour as the Official Opposition is the Conservatives. Centring their campaign on charismatic leader Ruth Davidson, the Conservatives employed a stripped-down message; pledging to be a recalcitrant force to SNP dominance in Holyrood in areas such as energy policy and trident renewal, and fighting suggestions of a second referendum. With further devolution imminent, the fifth Scottish Parliament promises to be the most powerful and important so far.

#### Robert Ede

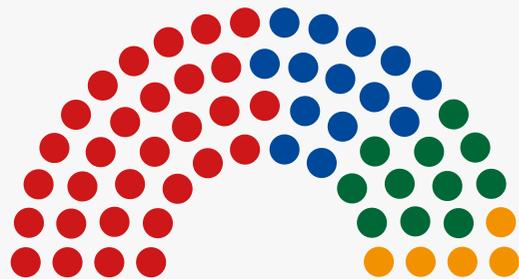
Political Consultant



# Welsh Assembly Elections 2016

## Results and Insight

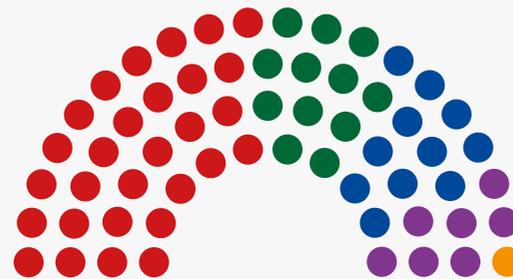
2011 Welsh Assembly



● Welsh Labour: 30  
● Welsh Conservatives: 14  
● Plaid Cymru: 11  
● Welsh Liberal Democrats: 5

60 seats in total

2016 Welsh Assembly



● Labour: 29 (-1)  
● Plaid Cymru: 12 (+1)  
● Welsh Conservatives: 11 (-3)  
● UKIP: 7 (+7)  
● Liberal Democrats: 1 (-4)

60 seats in total

### “The results point to rising Euroscepticism within Wales”

#### Analysis

These results ensure continuity for Welsh Labour, who will govern as a minority administration in the Assembly. Losing just one seat indicates support for Labour has withstood criticism of the party's running of the Welsh NHS, although Carwyn Jones will now have to choose a new Public Services Minister following Plaid's shock win in Rhondda. The opposition's changed composition offers greater intrigue, with the Conservatives disappointed that gains last May have not translated into more seats. The benefactor of this – amid predictable Liberal Democrat losses – is UKIP, which has entered the Welsh Assembly for the first time with seven seats, representing 12% of the legislature. UKIP's proposal to allow Welsh MPs to assist the Assembly now has the possibility of gaining traction; and their strong showing indicates rising Euroscepticism within Wales – a worrying development for the UK Government seven weeks before the referendum. The success of a minority administration will require substantial cooperation between the parties – providing opportunities for organisations to engage AMs and shape the agenda.

**Rhiannon Sanders**  
Research Executive

### Key developments

- ☒ Labour Minister Leighton Andrews loses his seat to Plaid Cymru leader Leanne Wood, in a shock depletion of his 7,000 majority.
- ☒ UKIP break through in Wales, gaining 7 seats including one for the former Conservative MP, Mark Reckless.

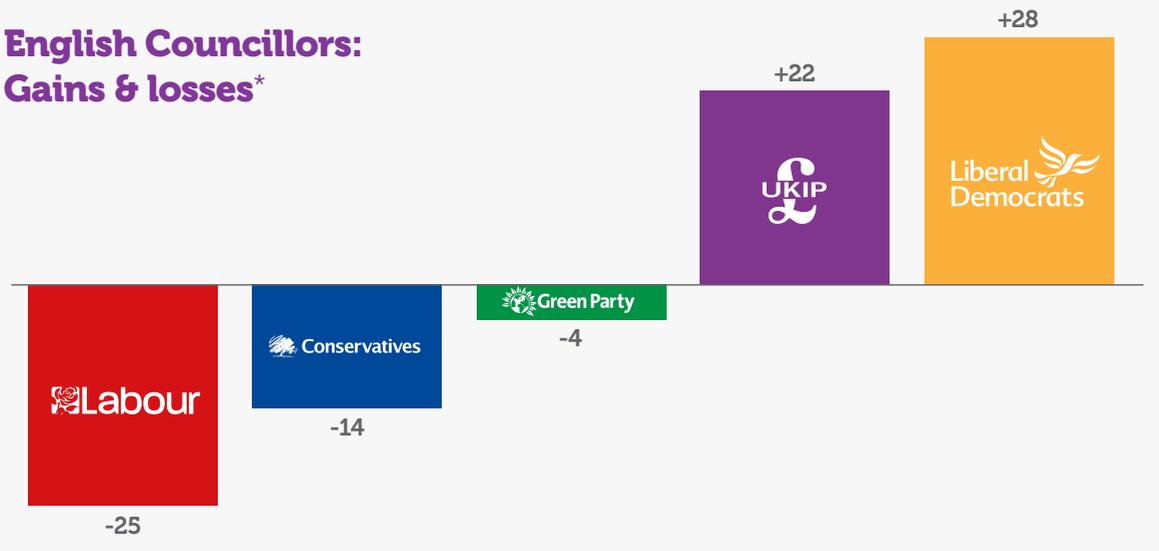
The  
**Whitehouse**  
Consultancy



# English Council Elections 2016

## Results and Insight

### English Councillors: Gains & losses\*



### Key developments

- ✘ After major losses at the last general election, the Liberal Democrats have shown signs of revival – retaining control of two councils and gaining 28 councillors.
- ✘ Labour's one-party rule of Greater Manchester showed signs of erosion, as the party lost seats to the Liberal Democrats and Conservatives.

## “Labour cling on in England”

### Analysis

“Across England we had predictions we'd lose councils. We didn't. We hung on.” Jeremy Corbyn may have been describing his party's performance, but it was an apt summary of his position as Labour leader. Despite losing 24 councillors and control of Dudley council, the predicted collapse did not come and Labour finished with over a thousand councillors retaining their seats. Perhaps there's a lesson for “moderates” in all this: briefing for disaster is no strategy if disaster never arrives.

While Labour have dominated headlines, the Liberal Democrats experienced a revival. From a low base, they held two councils and added 28 councillors nationally. Meanwhile UKIP increased their vote share, particularly in Labour heartlands like Sunderland with a 12% swing: a boost for their strategy in the North. And the Conservatives? A workman-like performance, albeit one eclipsed by gains north of the border.

### Jack Taylor

Political consultant