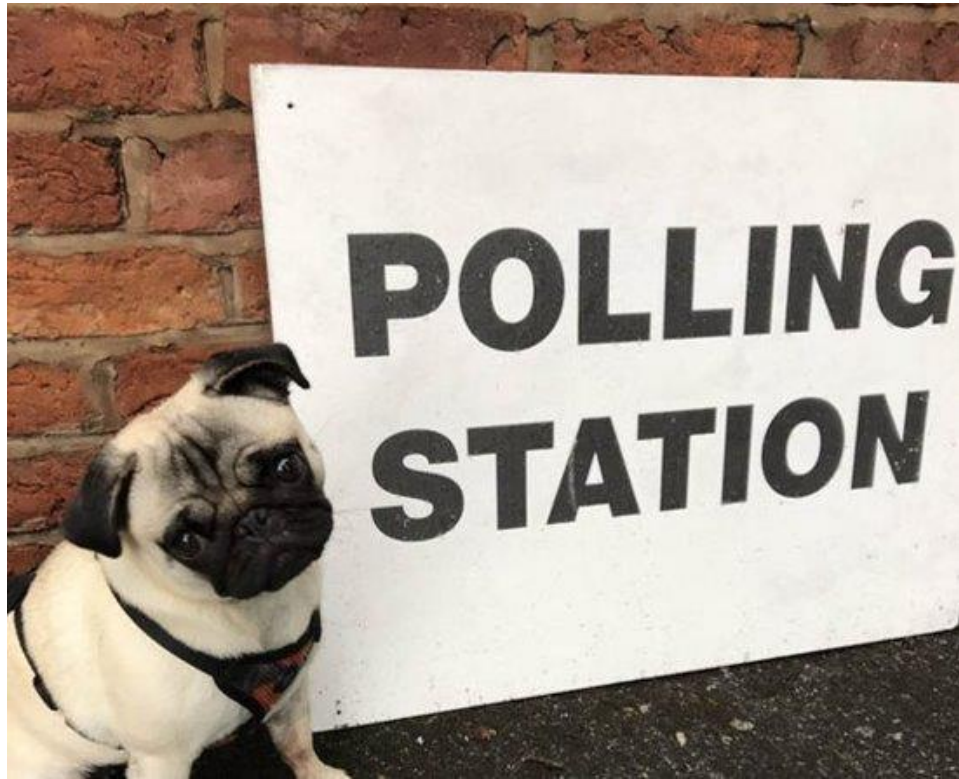


Coventry Decides



Senior Count Staff Briefing



Election of Councillors to Coventry City Council

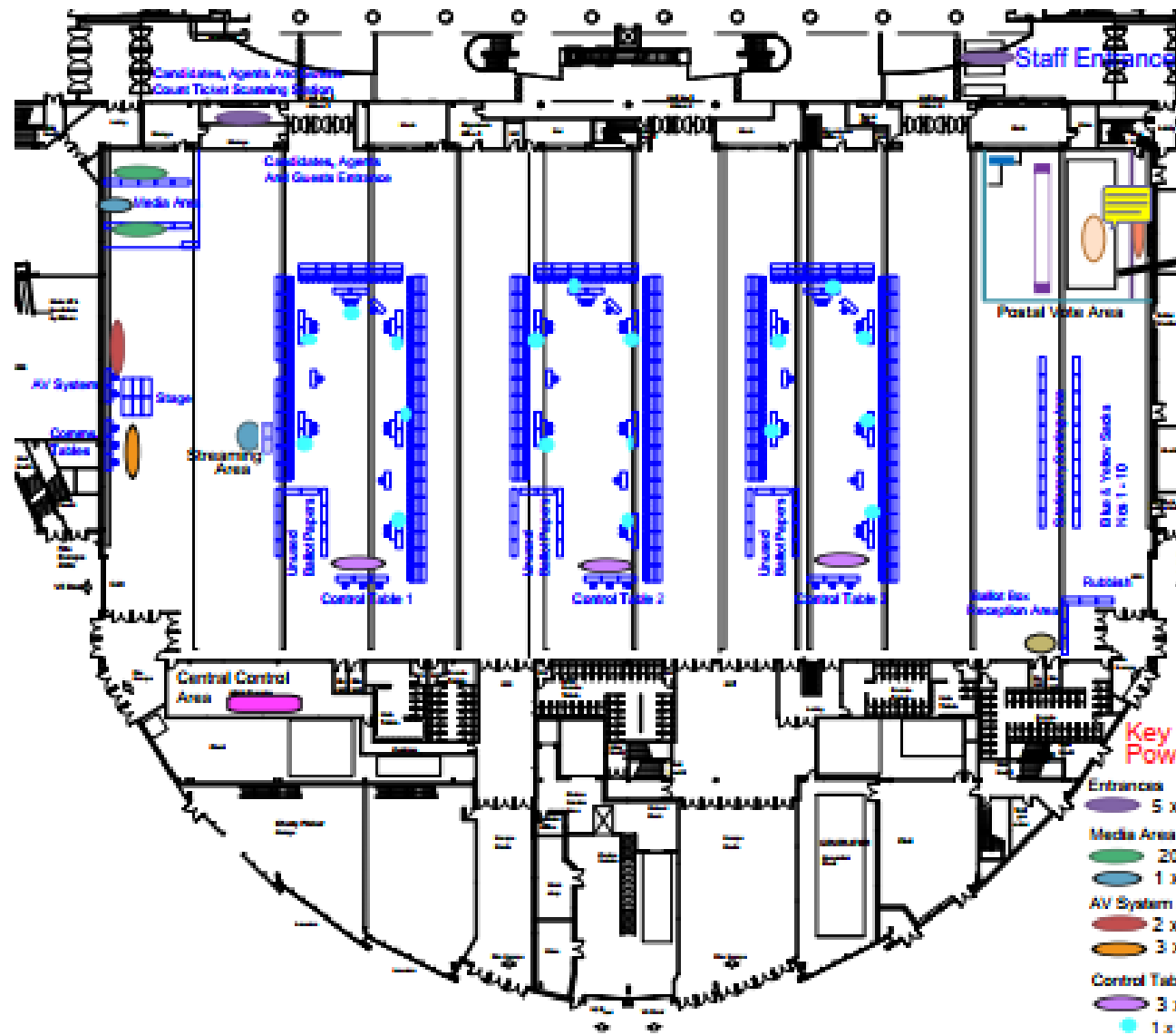
7 May 2026



What's different

- Following boundary review – all 54 Councillors up for election
- Voters can: “Vote for **up to three** candidates”
- 270 candidates
- Long ballot papers – between 14-19 candidates
- Count methods must be different – as can't just sort into piles per candidate
- New candidates, agents and parties – political context





General Information

- Delivery of ballot boxes from Polling Stations and processing Postal Votes – Thursday 10.45pm
- City Council Count – Friday 9.45am
- Verification approx 2-3 hours then staff can have a break
- Ward count can start once verification completed and staff have had break



Count roles



- **Senior Count Assistants**
- Assist Supervisors in collecting bundles of '25'
- Bundle flicking and placing on supervisor table
- **Count Supervisors**
- Supervising Counting Assistants
- Sorting doubtfuls
- Completing paperwork
- **Count Supervisors – Inputting**
- Help with above during verification
- Inputting results from block votes and summary sheets into spreadsheet
- **Senior Count Supervisors**
- Allocating doubtfuls into appropriate wallets
- Adjudicating with agents
- Checking paperwork before provisional result



Verification



Verification

- 18 count Areas – based on wards in three constituency areas
- 1 box from each station at a minimum. Some stations may have 2 boxes
- Ensure count assistants open ballot papers, lay them flat and count to 25 so agents can see
- Check the 25 and put paperclip on top left corner
- Can do more than 1 station at a time
- Once station completed and balanced take off paperclips and put in verified votes box
- Count Supervisors have responsibility for form filling etc.
- Count Supervisors inputting will help with the above



**Police and Crime Commissioner, City Council and West Midlands
Combined Authority Mayor Elections**

Election Date: Thursday 2 May 2024

City: Bablake

Ballot Box Record Card

Ballot Box No. **52**

No. of ballot papers on the ballot paper account

	No of ballot papers on the Ballot Paper Account signed by the Presiding Officer
--	---

	No of ballot papers arrived at after 1 st Count	Count supervisor Initials:
--	--	----------------------------

	No of ballot papers arrived at after 2 nd Count	Count supervisor Initials:
--	--	----------------------------

	No of ballot papers arrived at after 3 rd Count	Count supervisor Initials:
--	--	----------------------------

	No of ballot papers arrived out after 4 th Count	Count supervisor Initials:
--	---	----------------------------

Enter final figure onto form L3; put this form in Control table tray.

Verification



Verification



Verification



Verification

Bablake
Verification of Ballot Paper Report

Police and Crime Commissioner, City Council and West Midlands Combined Authority Mayor Elections
Date of Election: Thursday 2 May 2024

Polling Station	Ballot Box Count	No of Ballot Papers Verified	Difference
52 <u>Hawkes Mill Lane Sports and Social Club, Hawkes Mill Lane</u>	1		
53 <u>Allestey Village Hall, Birmingham Road</u>	2		
54 <u>Scout Hut, Wickham Close</u>	2		
55 <u>Christ the King Library, 14 Westhill Road</u>	2		
56 <u>Pre-School, Hollyfast Primary School</u>	1		
57 <u>Keresley United Reformed Church, Bennetts Road</u>	1		
58 <u>Whitmore Park Primary School, Halford Lane</u>	1		
59 <u>Scout Headquarters, Washbrook Lane</u>	2		
Postal Voters Ballot Box 1			
Postal Voters Ballot Box 2			
Postal Voters Ballot Box 3			
Postal Voters Ballot Box 4			
Totals			

Place the figure in the shaded box in box D on the Candidates Record Card in your Count Folder



Count – block votes



- Verified ballot papers – take clips off, distribute to counters
- In every ward apart from Earlsdon, Foleshill, Holbrooks and St Michaels – **block votes (Party votes)**
- Ballot papers are sorted by party – where the voter uses ALL 3 votes for the same party, all of the wards have:
 - 3 x Conservative Party Candidate votes
 - 3 x Green Party votes
 - 3 x Labour Party votes
 - 3 x Reform UK votes



Example of block votes

Anderson	Reform UK	
Badenoch	Conservative Party Candidate	X
Bennett	Green Party	
Cameron	Conservative Party Candidate	X
Davey	Liberal Democrat	
Farage	Reform UK	
Lammy	Labour Party	
Lucas	Green Party	
Mitchell	Independent	
Polanski	Green Party	
Reeves	Labour Party	
Starmer	Labour Party	
Thatcher	Conservative Party Candidate	X
Tice	Reform UK	



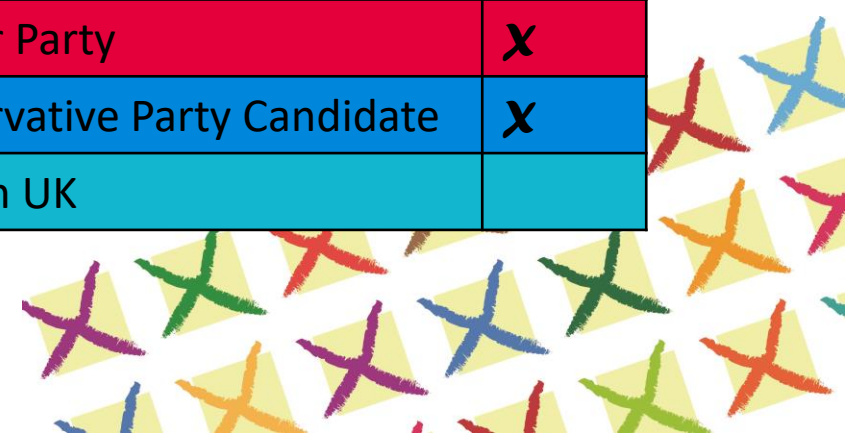
Example of block votes

Anderson	Reform UK	
Badenoch	Conservative Party Candidate	X
Bennett	Green Party	
Cameron	Conservative Party Candidate	X
Davey	Liberal Democrat	
Farage	Reform UK	
Lammy	Labour Party	
Lucas	Green Party	
Mitchell	Independent	
Polanski	Green Party	
Reeves	Labour Party	
Starmer	Labour Party	
Thatcher	Conservative Party Candidate	X
Tice	Reform UK	



Anderson	Reform UK	
Badenoch	Conservative Party Candidate	X
Bennett	Green Party	
Cameron	Conservative Party Candidate	X
Davey	Liberal Democrat	
Farage	Reform UK	
Lammy	Labour Party	
Lucas	Green Party	
Mitchell	Independent	
Polanski	Green Party	
Reeves	Labour Party	
Starmer	Labour Party	
Thatcher	Conservative Party Candidate	X
Tice	Reform UK	

Anderson	Reform UK	X
Badenoch	Conservative Party Candidate	X
Bennett	Green Party	X
Cameron	Conservative Party Candidate	X
Davey	Liberal Democrat	X
Farage	Reform UK	X
Lammy	Labour Party	X
Lucas	Green Party	X
Mitchell	Independent	X
Polanski	Green Party	X
Reeves	Labour Party	X
Starmer	Labour Party	X
Thatcher	Conservative Party Candidate	X
Tice	Reform UK	



Example of block votes

Anderson	Reform UK	x
Badenoch	Conservative Party Candidate	
Bennett	Green Party	
Cameron	Conservative Party Candidate	
Davey	Liberal Democrat	
Farage	Reform UK	x
Lammy	Labour Party	
Lucas	Green Party	
Mitchell	Independent	
Polanski	Green Party	
Reeves	Labour Party	
Starmer	Labour Party	
Thatcher	Conservative Party Candidate	
Tice	Reform UK	x



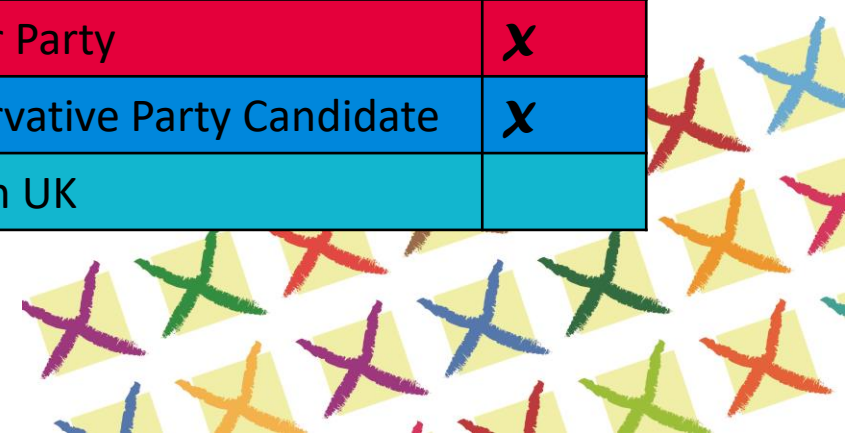
Example of block votes

Anderson	Reform UK	x
Badenoch	Conservative Party Candidate	
Bennett	Green Party	
Cameron	Conservative Party Candidate	
Davey	Liberal Democrat	
Farage	Reform UK	x
Lammy	Labour Party	
Lucas	Green Party	
Mitchell	Independent	
Polanski	Green Party	
Reeves	Labour Party	
Starmer	Labour Party	
Thatcher	Conservative Party Candidate	
Tice	Reform UK	x



Anderson	Reform UK	X
Badenoch	Conservative Party Candidate	
Bennett	Green Party	
Cameron	Conservative Party Candidate	
Davey	Liberal Democrat	
Farage	Reform UK	X
Lammy	Labour Party	
Lucas	Green Party	
Mitchell	Independent	
Polanski	Green Party	
Reeves	Labour Party	
Starmer	Labour Party	
Thatcher	Conservative Party Candidate	
Tice	Reform UK	X

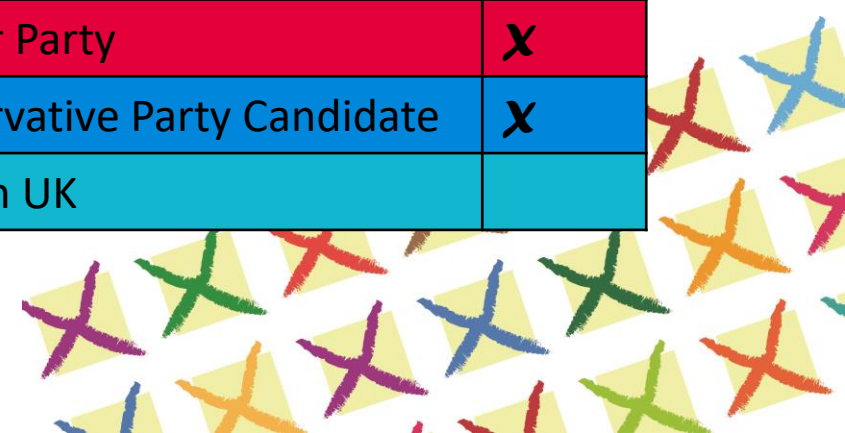
Anderson	Reform UK	X
Badenoch	Conservative Party Candidate	X
Bennett	Green Party	X
Cameron	Conservative Party Candidate	X
Davey	Liberal Democrat	X
Farage	Reform UK	X
Lammy	Labour Party	X
Lucas	Green Party	X
Mitchell	Independent	X
Polanski	Green Party	X
Reeves	Labour Party	X
Starmer	Labour Party	X
Thatcher	Conservative Party Candidate	X
Tice	Reform UK	



“Mixed” votes

Anderson	Reform UK	
Badenoch	Conservative Party Candidate	
Bennett	Green Party	
Cameron	Conservative Party Candidate	X
Davey	Liberal Democrat	X
Farage	Reform UK	
Lammy	Labour Party	
Lucas	Green Party	X
Mitchell	Independent	
Polanski	Green Party	
Reeves	Labour Party	
Starmer	Labour Party	
Thatcher	Conservative Party Candidate	
Tice	Reform UK	

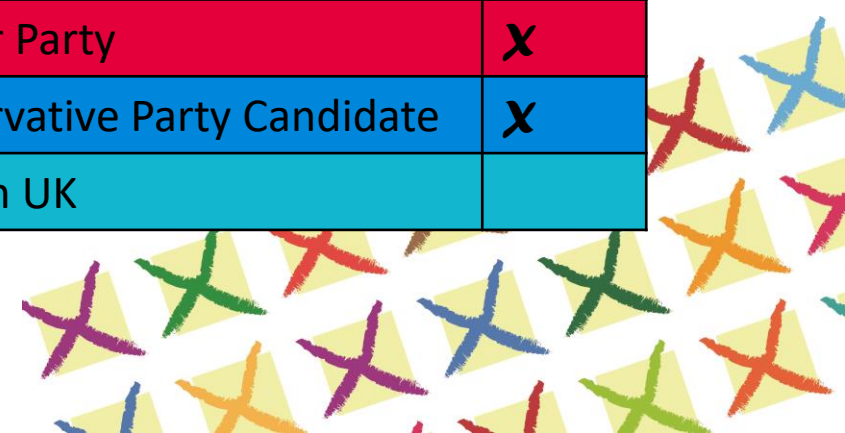
Anderson	Reform UK	X
Badenoch	Conservative Party Candidate	X
Bennett	Green Party	X
Cameron	Conservative Party Candidate	X
Davey	Liberal Democrat	X
Farage	Reform UK	X
Lammy	Labour Party	X
Lucas	Green Party	X
Mitchell	Independent	X
Polanski	Green Party	X
Reeves	Labour Party	X
Starmer	Labour Party	X
Thatcher	Conservative Party Candidate	X
Tice	Reform UK	



Not using all 3 votes

Anderson	Reform UK	X
Badenoch	Conservative Party Candidate	
Bennett	Green Party	
Cameron	Conservative Party Candidate	
Davey	Liberal Democrat	
Farage	Reform UK	
Lammy	Labour Party	
Lucas	Green Party	
Mitchell	Independent	X
Polanski	Green Party	
Reeves	Labour Party	
Starmer	Labour Party	
Thatcher	Conservative Party Candidate	
Tice	Reform UK	

Anderson	Reform UK	X
Badenoch	Conservative Party Candidate	X
Bennett	Green Party	X
Cameron	Conservative Party Candidate	X
Davey	Liberal Democrat	X
Farage	Reform UK	X
Lammy	Labour Party	X
Lucas	Green Party	X
Mitchell	Independent	X
Polanski	Green Party	X
Reeves	Labour Party	X
Starmer	Labour Party	X
Thatcher	Conservative Party Candidate	X
Tice	Reform UK	



Doubtful Ballot Papers

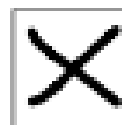
- 5 reasons for rejection
- Want of official mark
- Voting for more than permitted number
- Writing by which voter can be identified
- Unmarked or void for uncertainty
- Reject in part



Election of councillors to *[insert name of local authority]*

Vote for no more than three candidates by putting a cross in the box next to each of your choices.

BARBER, Ali
5 Anytown Close, Anytown, AT34 6CY
Pelican Party



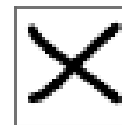
BOOTS, Dusty
63 Acacia Avenue, Anytown, AT33 5XZ
League of Line Dancers



CLOVER, Elizabeth Mary
9 Seymour Court, Anytown, AT12 E34
Independent



GREY, Earl
(address in [relevant area])
Mad Hatter's Tea Party



HOOD, Robin
64 Purple Road, Anytown, AT12 7HT
The Forest Party



MILLER, Windy
7 Daisy Drive, Anytown, AT98 7RK
Alternative Power Forum



Election of councillors to *[insert name of local authority]*

Vote for no more than three candidates by putting a cross in the box next to each of your choices.

BARBER, Ail
5 Anytown Close, Anytown, AT34 6CY
Pelican Party



6

BOOTS, Dusty
63 Acacia Avenue, Anytown, AT33 5XZ
League of Line Dancers



3

CLOVER, Elizabeth Mary
9 Seymour Court, Anytown, AT12 E34
Independent

1

GREY, Earl
(address in [relevant area])
Mad Hatter's Tea Party



2

HOOD, Robin
64 Purple Road, Anytown, AT12 7HT
The Forest Party



5

MILLER, Windy
7 Daisy Drive, Anytown, AT98 7RK
Alternative Power Forum








4



Election of councillors to [insert name of local authority]

Vote for no more than three candidates by putting a cross in the box next to each of your choices.

BARBER, Ali 5 Anytown Close, Anytown, AT34 8CY Pelican Party		<input type="checkbox"/>
BOOTS, Dusty 63 Acacia Avenue, Anytown, AT33 5XZ League of Line Dancers		<input type="checkbox"/>
CLOVER, Elizabeth Mary 9 Seymour Court, Anytown, AT12 8M Independent		<input type="checkbox"/>
GREY, Earl (address in [relevant area]) Mad Hatter's Tea Party		<input type="checkbox"/>
HOOD, Robin 64 Purple Road Anytown, AT12 7HT The Forest Party		<input type="checkbox"/>
MILLER, Windy 7 Daisy Drive, Anytown, AT98 7RK Alternative Power Forum		<input type="checkbox"/>



Election of councillors to *[insert name of local authority]*

Vote for no more than three candidates by putting a cross in the box next to each of your choices.

~~BARBER, Aili
5 Anytown Close, Anytown, AT34 8QW
Pelican Party~~



BOOTS, Dusty
63 Acacia Avenue, Anytown, AT33 5XZ
League of Line Dancers



~~CLOVER, Elizabeth Mary
9 Seymour Court, Anytown, AT13 5B3
Independent~~

GREY, Earl
(address in [relevant area])
Mad Hatter's Tea Party



HOOD, Robin
64 Purple Road, Anytown, AT12 7HT
The Forest Party



MILLER, Windy
7 Daisy Drive, Anytown, AT98 7RK
Alternative Power Forum



Election of councillors to *[insert name of local authority]*

Vote for no more than three candidates by putting a cross in the box next to each of your choices.

BARBER, Ail
5 Anytown Close, Anytown, AT34 6CY
Pelican Party



Yes

BOOTS, Dusty
63 Acacia Avenue, Anytown, AT33 5XZ
League of Line Dancers



CLOVER, Elizabeth Mary
9 Seymour Court, Anytown, AT12 E34
Independent



GREY, Earl
(address in [relevant area])
Mad Hatter's Tea Party



Yes

HOOD, Robin
64 Purple Road, Anytown, AT12 7HT
The Forest Party



Yes

MILLER, Windy
7 Daisy Drive, Anytown, AT98 7RK
Alternative Power Forum



Election of councillors to *[insert name of local authority]*

Vote for **no more than three candidates** by putting a cross in the box next to **each** of your choices.

BARBER, Ali
5 Anytown Close, Anytown, AT34 6CY
Pelican Party



BOOTS, Dusty
63 Acacia Avenue, Anytown, AT33 5XZ
League of Line Dancers



CLOVER, Elizabeth Mary
9 Seymour Court, Anytown, AT12 E34
Independent

GREY, Earl
(address in [relevant area])
Mad Hatter's Tea Party



HOOD, Robin
64 Purple Road, Anytown, AT12 7HT
The Forest Party








MILLER, Windy
7 Daisy Drive, Anytown, AT98 7RK
Alternative Power Forum



Election of councillors to *[insert name of local authority]*

Vote for no more than three candidates by putting a cross in the box next to each of your choices.

BARBER, Ail 5 Anytown Close, Anytown, AT34 8QH Pelican Party		<input type="checkbox"/>
BOOTS, Dusty 63 Acacia Avenue, Anytown, AT33 5XZ League of Line Dancers		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CLOVER, Elizabeth Mary 9 Seymour Court, Anytown, AT12 5B4 Independent		<input type="checkbox"/>
GREY, Earl (address in [relevant area]) Mad Hatter's Tea Party		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
HOOD, Robin 64 Purple Road, Anytown, AT12 7HT The Forest Party		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
MILLER, Windy 7 Daisy Drive, Anytown, AT98 7RK Alternative Power Forum		<input type="checkbox"/>



Election of councillors to [insert name of local authority]

Vote for **no more than THREE candidates** by putting a cross in the box next to **each** of your choices

BARBER, Ali 5 Anytown Close, Anytown, AT34 6CY Pelican Party		<input type="checkbox"/>
BOOTS, Dusty 63 Acacia Avenue, Anytown, AT33 5XZ League of Line Dancers		<input type="checkbox"/> ?
CLOVER, Mary Elizabeth 9 Seymour Court, Anytown, AT12 E34 Independent		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X
GREY, Eerl (Address in [relevant area]) Pelican Party		<input type="checkbox"/>
HOOD, Robin 64 Purple Road, Anytown, AT12 7HT League of Line Dancers		<input type="checkbox"/> ?
JIANG, Mike 33 The Lane, Anytown, XY6 3GD Alternative Power Forum		<input type="checkbox"/>
MILLER, Windy 7 Daisy Drive, Anytown, AT98 TRK Pelican Party		<input type="checkbox"/>
WILLIAMS, Rhys 3 The Road, Anytown, XY3 4JN League of Line Dancers		<input type="checkbox"/> ?

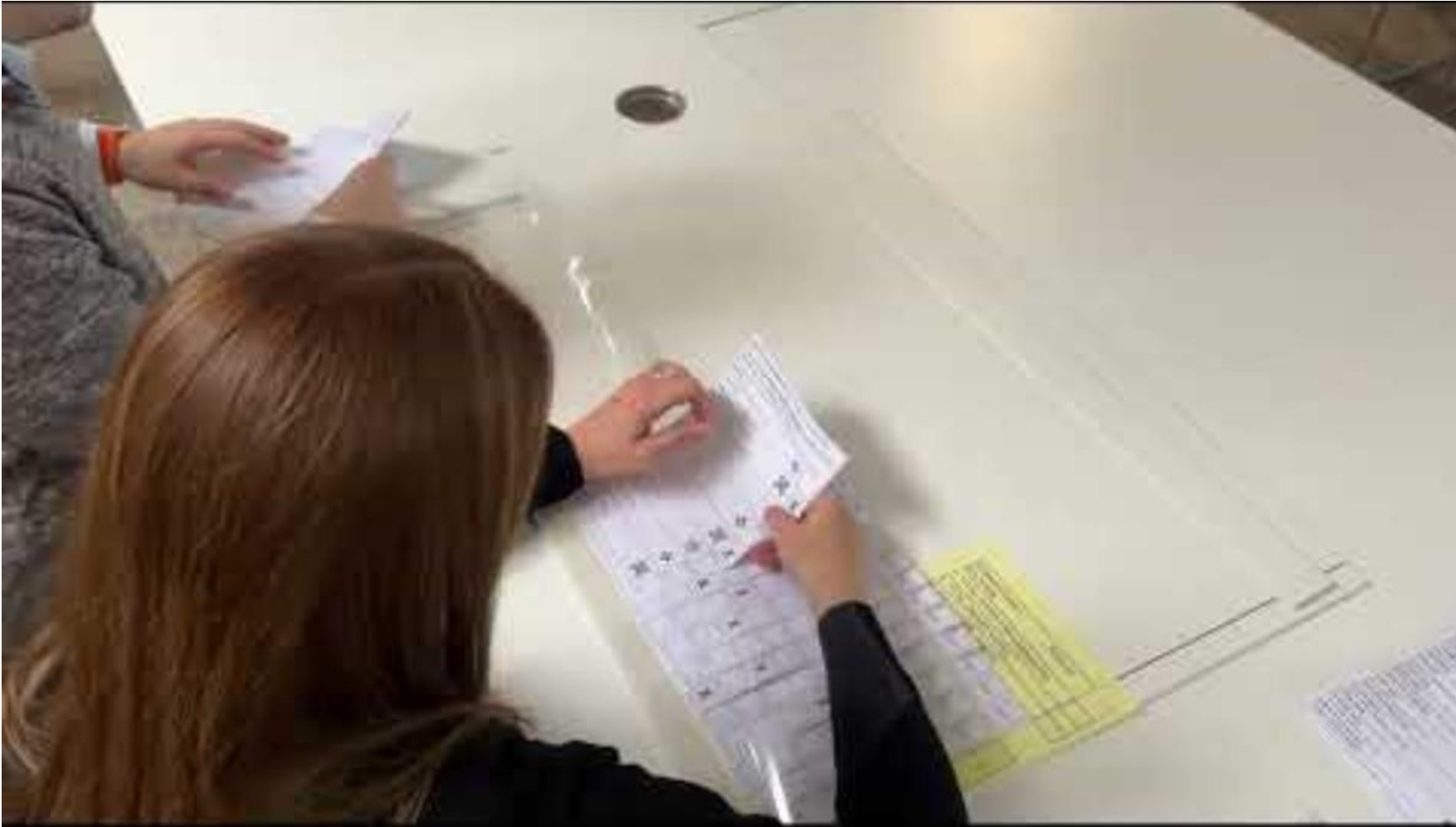


Count Practical

- Verified ballot papers – take clips off, distribute to counters
- In every ward apart from Earlsdon, Foleshill, Holbrooks and St Michaels – **block votes (Party votes)**
- Ballot papers are sorted by party – where the voter uses ALL 3 votes for the same party, all of the wards have:
 - 3 x Reform UK votes
 - 3 x Green Party votes
 - 3 x Labour Party votes
 - 3 x Conservative Party Candidate votes



Kangaroo Boards



Count Practical



Important Information

- Be careful of terminology that you use eg: the figures do not balance NOT we have lost 100 votes
- There is a script with frequently asked questions which I have circulated
- Communication Channels



Result

- Once the provisional result is prepared DRO will discuss with Candidates and Agents – Count Supervisors will go with DRO so can then take back if a recount is required
- Recount
- No recount we will prepare the result for declaration
- There are no speeches this year
- Potentially a lot of recounts, we will only continue until 8pm at the latest and if not completed will have to ask for volunteers to come back Saturday to completed any wards not finished.
- If that happens will condense down to Hall 2.



Final Points



- Open and transparent
- Communication via SCS
- Collection of staff at beginning
- Names of staff
- Refreshments



QUESTIONS

