



Coventry Decides

Candidate and Agents Briefing – Verification and Count



Who's who

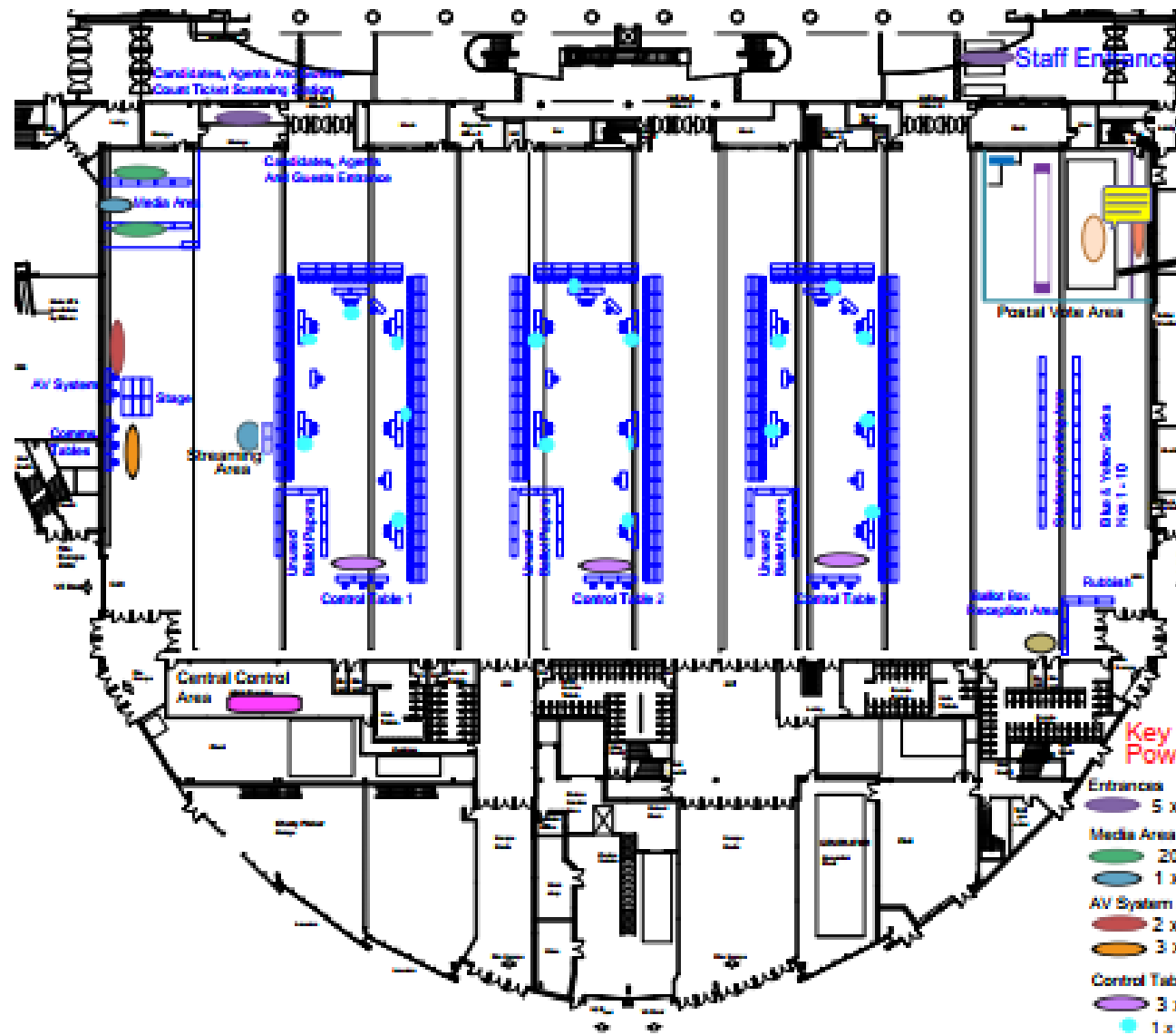
- **Julie Newman** – Director of Law, Governance and Safer Communities, Monitoring Officer Returning Officer & Electoral Registration Officer
- **Liz Read** – Head of Electoral Services, Deputy Electoral Registration Officer, and Deputy Returning Officer
- **Julie Nugent, Susanna Chilton, Barry Hastie** – Deputy Returning Officers



Update – close of nominations

- 270 candidates are standing for election
- 46 election agents
- Between 14-19 candidates per ward
- Long ballot papers and multi-member counts present different challenge
- Count methods will be different to usual– as can't just sort into piles per candidate
- Block voting along party lines
- Kangaroo boards for mixed votes





General Information

- Delivery of ballot boxes from Polling Stations and processing Postal Votes – Thursday 10.45pm
- Verification of unused ballot papers – 10:45pm onwards
- City Council Count – Friday 9.45am
- Verification of ballot boxes approximately 2-3 hours
- Ward count will commence after verification – counts will start at different times, when staff ready



Attendee information

- Candidates and election agents – automatic entry to the count
- Counting agents – each candidate can appoint **one** counting agent
- Candidates can also appoint **one** guest to support them
- Guests have no official role – therefore won't be accommodated at count tables



Attendee information

Thursday

- Thursday night – from 10:15pm onwards – you can park in **Car Park A** (you should let us know if you plan to attend)
- Final postal votes processed from polling stations
- Verification of **unused** ballot papers only
- No ballot boxes opened. Boxes logged and then sealed in secure room overnight



Verification

Friday



Verification

- Verification will commence at 9:45am – park in Car Park A
- 18 count areas – based on wards in three constituency areas
- Each area has a **Count Supervisor** who oversees that area
- one box from each station at a minimum. Some stations may have two boxes.
- Count Assistants will open ballot papers, lay them flat and count to **25**
- Staff will check the bundles of 25
- Once station completed and balanced, votes will be placed in the clear **verified votes** box



Count – block votes



- Verified ballot papers will be distributed 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	



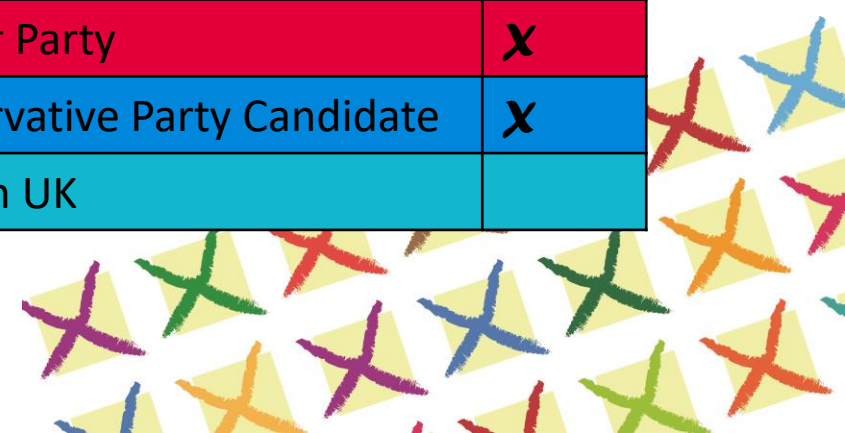
Example of block votes

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



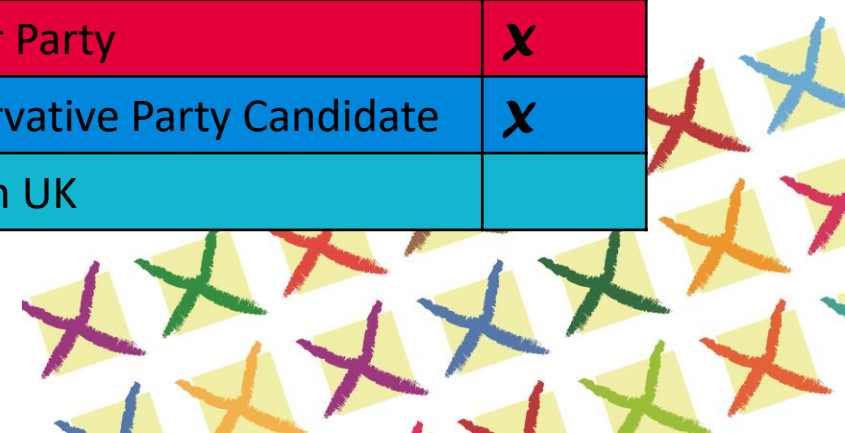
Example of block votes

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

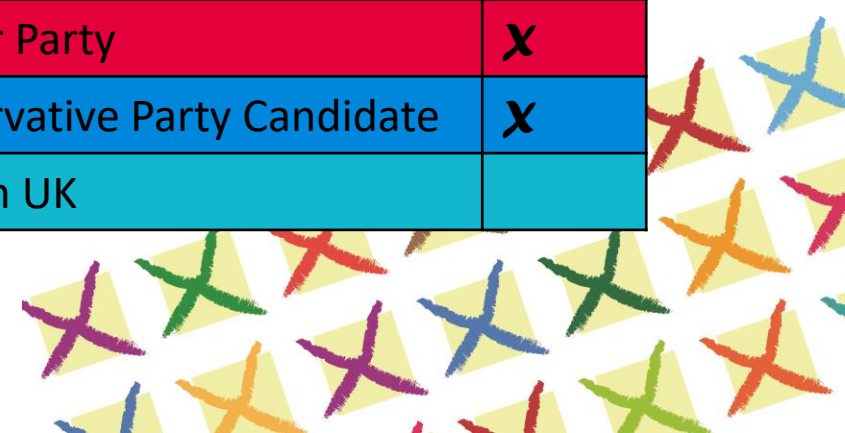
Anderson	Reform UK	X
Badenoch	Conservative Party Candidate	X
Bennett	Green Party	X
Cameron	Conservative Party Candidate	X
Davey	Liberal Democrat	X
Farage	Reform UK	X
Lammy	Labour Party	X
Lucas	Green Party	X
Mitchell	Independent	X
Polanski	Green Party	X
Reeves	Labour Party	X
Starmer	Labour Party	X
Thatcher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

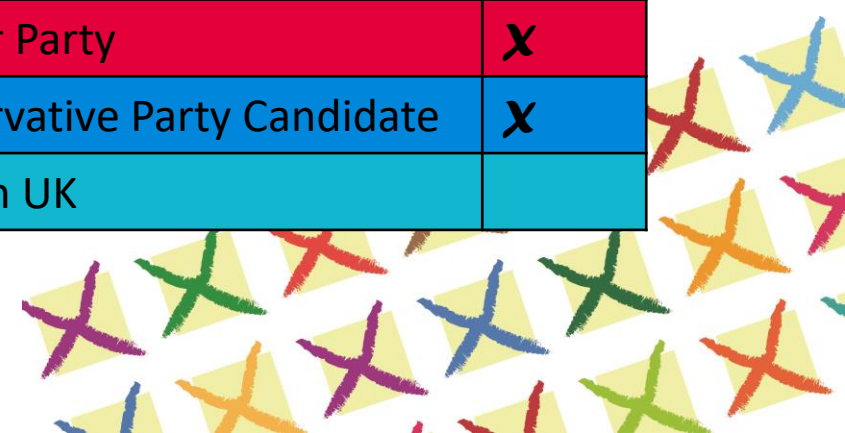
Anderson	Reform UK	X
Badenoch	Conservative Party Candidate	X
Bennett	Green Party	X
Cameron	Conservative Party Candidate	X
Davey	Liberal Democrat	X
Farage	Reform UK	X
Lammy	Labour Party	X
Lucas	Green Party	X
Mitchell	Independent	X
Polanski	Green Party	X
Reeves	Labour Party	X
Starmer	Labour Party	X
Thatcher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



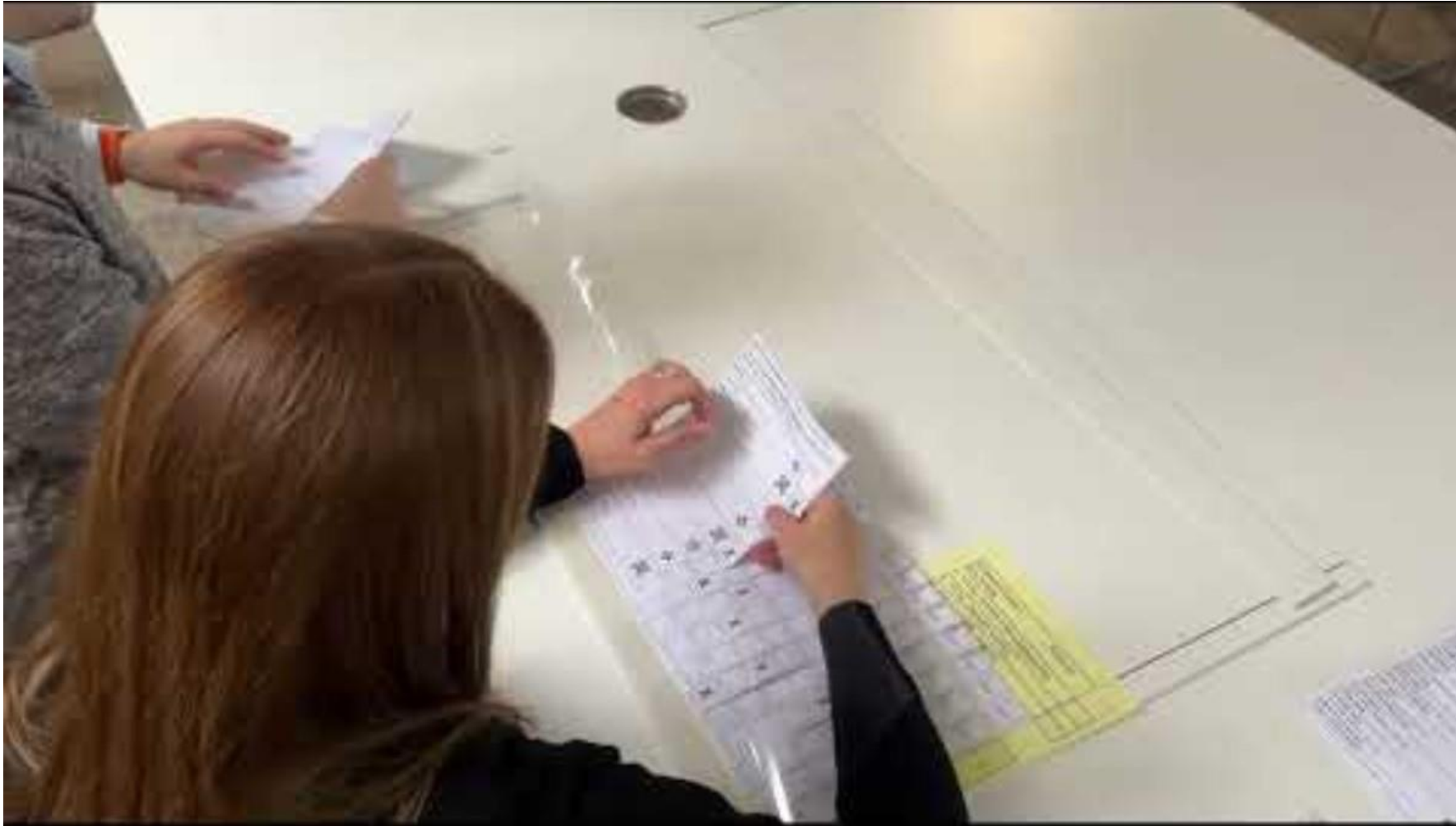
Not using all 3 votes

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	



Kangaroo Boards



Mixed votes – Kangaroo Boards

- Working in pairs, staff will set out 25 mixed votes onto the kangaroo boards
- Staff may identify doubtful votes or votes marked not in the box
- Votes per candidate are counted along the row
- “Unused” votes counted by counting down the columns



Count Demonstration



Combining the methods

- Count supervisors will take totals from block votes and mixed votes
- Senior Count Supervisors will adjudicate on doubtful ballot papers:
 - 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*



Provisional Result

- Once the count is finish and doubtful ballot papers adjudicated
- Deputy Returning Officer will share provisional result with candidates and election agents
- If there is a request for a recount – this will be considered
- If no recount, the Returning Officer will declare the result
- There are no speeches for candidates or retiring councillors
- Media area will be available for media comment
- Equality of votes



Result

The three candidates with the most votes will be elected:

1. The first-placed candidate will be elected for a 4-year term (until 2030)
2. The second-placed candidate will be elected for a 2-year term (until 2028)
3. The third-placed candidate will be elected for a 1-year term (until 2027)



QUESTIONS

