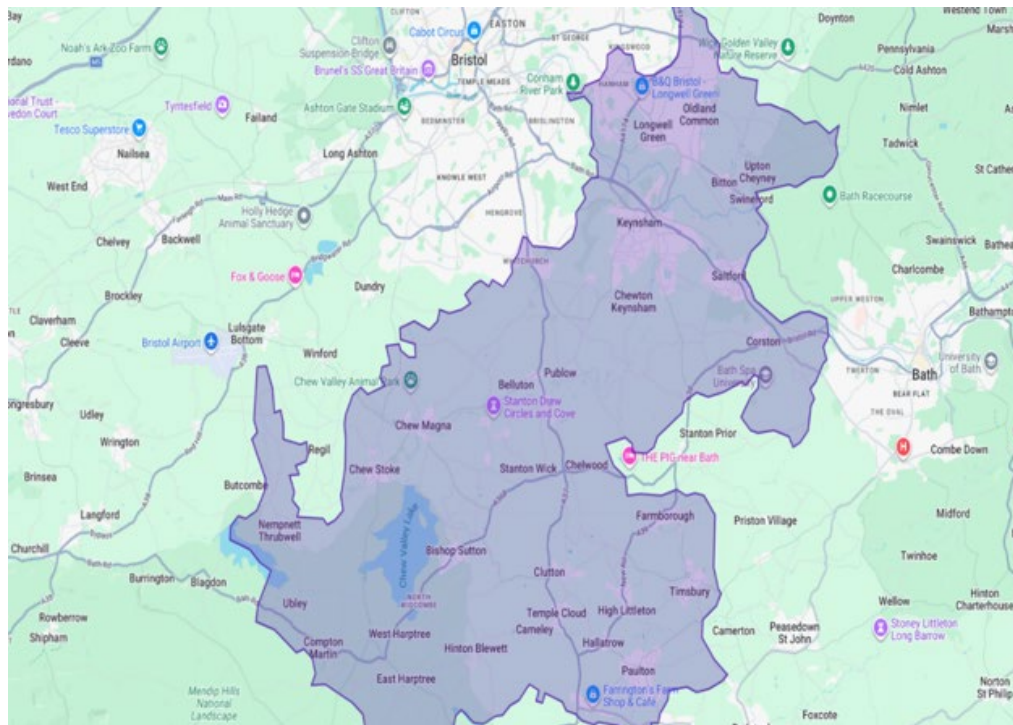


North East Somerset and Hanham (NESH) constituency profile

1. Constituency description



The constituency was formed from the 2023 review of Westminster constituencies and first contested at the 2024 general election. It straddles the two unitary council boundaries of Bath and North East Somerset (Banes) and South Gloucestershire (S Glos). Banes is controlled by the Lib Dems outright with a strong majority, whilst S Glos is controlled by a Lib Dem/ Labour partnership agreement, also with a strong majority. In all the constituency has fifteen wards, eleven of which are in Banes and four of which are in S Glos. At the 2024 general election the total electorate was 73,889 and with considerable new housing development in some areas of the constituency this will only increase each year.

The Constituency can be separated into 3 key parts, each with a distinct profile. The most northern part of the Constituency contains the 4 wards that reside within S Glos politically, but are practically strongly linked to Bristol, due to strong transport links and resident identity (the wards are within the Bristol NHS Trust). The local councillors are either Conservative or Labour, although the Lib Dems came a clear 2nd in one of the wards (Longwell Green) despite fielding paper candidates. The middle part of the constituency is centred on the 'A4 corridor' running between Bristol and Bath, including the town of Keynsham and the villages of Saltford and Corston. At the 2023 Local election,

the Lib Dems won 6 of the 8 seats in this area, although one of these (the 2nd Saltford seat) was lost to an Independent by just 4 votes in a 2025 byelection. The southern part of the constituency is a wide rural area that sprawls across North East Somerset as well as some former mining communities in the Somer Valley. 5 of the 9 council seats here are held by the Lib Dems, with 1 Labour, 2 Independent (1 formerly Lib Dem and one formerly Labour) and 1 Green making up the rest of the local representation.

Electoral Calculus data indicates that the four S Glos wards represent approximately 44% of the electorate with the three Keynsham plus Saltford wards on the A4 corridor representing another 27%, totalling 71% living in the geographical northern third of the constituency.

2. Recent Election Result Councillors in NESH.

There are currently ten Liberal Democrat councillors in the Constituency, all of whom represent wards in Bath and North East Somerset Council. There are also 8 Conservative councillors, all representing South Gloucestershire wards, 4 Independents, 2 Labour and 1 Green Councillors. The full list of wards and councillors is as below:

Ward	Councillors	2nd Place in 23	Expected Opposition
B&NES			
Chew Valley	LD, LD	Con	Conservative
Clutton & Farmborough	Green	Con	Green
High Littleton	Ind (elected LD)	Con	Con/Ref
Keynsham East	LD, LD	Con	Conservative
Keynsham North	LD, LD	Con	Reform
Keynsham South	Ind (elected Con), Lab	Lab/Con	Reform
Mendip	LD	Reform (25 byelection)	Reform
Paulton	Lab, Ind (elected Lab)	Con	Lab/Ref
Publow & Whitchurch	LD	Con	Conservative
Saltford	LD , Ind (elected in 25 byelection)	LD (byelection)	Ind/Con/Ref
Timsbury	LD	Con	Reform
S GLOS			
Bitton & Oldland Common	Con, Con	Lab	Conservative
Hanham	Con, Con, Lab	Lab	Reform
Longwell Green	Con, Con	LD	Conservative
Parkwall & Warmley	Con, Con	Lab	Reform

GE 2024

The Election Results in NESH for the 2024 General Election are shown below. The constituency was not a target seat however the Lib Dems maintained 4th place ahead of the Greens, despite the latter's strong performance in nearby Bristol. Box Counts from election night indicate a very high level of tactical voting for Labour in LD strongholds as part of the effort to unseat then incumbent -Jacob Rees-Mogg.

Party	Candidate	Votes	%
Labour	Dan Norris	20,739	40.6%
Conservative	Jacob Rees-Mogg	15,420	30.2%
Reform	Paul MacDonnell	7,424	14.5%
Liberal Democrat	Dine Romero	3,878	7.6%
Green	Edmund Cannon	3,222	6.3%
Others		442	0.9%

WECA election 2025

Although the Lib Dem candidate won the poll in the BANES council area, overall, the Lib Dems were in 5th place. Across NESH the Lib Dems performed consistently between 15-25% of the vote, narrowly behind both the Conservatives and Reform.

Party	Name of Candidate	Number of Votes in Bath and NES	Number of Votes in South Gloucestershire	Vote numbers for the whole WECA Area
GODWIN, Helen	Labour	8,764	12,442	51,197
BANKS, Arron Fraser Andrew	Reform	8,586	19,446	45,252
PAGE, Mary	Green	6,250	7,392	41,094
SMITH, Steve	Conservative	8,522	14,235	34,092
HENMAN, Oli	Lib Dem	9,942	9,137	28,711
SCOTT, Ian Keith Mark	Independent	741	2,051	4,682

Helen Godwin was elected with Aaron Banks for Reform in second place. While there was still some tactical voting for Labour, it was notably weaker than during the general election.

EU Referendum result

In the EU 2016 referendum vote the old North East Somerset constituency 51.63 % voted Leave and 48.37% Remain and in the old Kingswood constituency (of which Hanham was part) 57.1% voted leave and 42.8% Remain. (Estimated results based on the Hanratty model, sourced from Wikipedia)

3. Economic Data

WECA Economic Strategy

The constituency is an important part of the West of England Combined Authority. WECA's economic development plan gives an important outline of the future plans for the region

<https://www.westofengland-ca.gov.uk/about-us/our-strategy/>

The expected outcomes for 2040 are listed below:

To deliver our vision for the West of England in 2040, partners have identified three clear outcomes that together we will work to achieve. These outcomes are supported by specific improvements that will help us track our progress.

- **A greener West of England:** Net zero carbon, with resilient natural environments, and significant green spaces and waterways.
- **A more equal, fair, and inclusive region:** All residents will share in the region's success, with access to homes, jobs, and services that improve quality of life.
- **A prosperous region:** Rising incomes and standards of living, with a sustainably growing economy that brings thriving high streets, better connectivity, and green jobs across sectors.

4. Employment Data

At present there is a high level of employment and a good representation of high-level work and qualifications. Data is available from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) for the former constituencies of Kingswood and North

East Somerset that now form NESH. Lower skilled work is at a higher level than for the region as a whole.

Census data 2021	Kingswood	North East Somerset	South West Region
Employment rate for 16- 64-year-olds	86.6%	78%	81%
Economically inactive includes students and retired	13.4%	22%	19%
Employment in management and professional roles	51.5%	59.9%	52.8%
Lower skilled work	20.6%	10%	14.8%
Census data 2021	Kingswood	North East Somerset	South West Region
Qualifications to Level 4 (Graduate equivalent)	42%	50.5%	46.1%

5. Child poverty rate

The absolute child poverty rate for NESH in 2023/24 was 9.4%. This measure compares with a rate of 9.2% in the near-by constituency of Bath. The overall UK absolute child poverty rate is currently 26%.

6. Members and staff

The local party employs three members of staff who cover both the Bath and NESH constituencies. In addition, there are many active members in the Bath and NES authority area. There is consistent campaign activity based around ward councillors alongside a regular monthly action day, that delivers bimonthly leaflets (alongside smaller more targeted literature runs) and 300-400 doorstep contacts a month. A number of wards not currently held in the constituency are very likely to be targets in the 2027 local elections. The South Glos wards have not been active recently, but in one of them, Longwell Green, the Lib Dems came a promising 2nd in the 2023 Unitary elections, with 35% of the vote. More information on membership is available in the diversity profile. Equally notable is a lack of opposition activity in the constituency, with no

substantial opposition canvassing or delivery having been observed within the last six months.

7. Priorities for the constituency

Priorities for the constituency for the Liberal Democrats include:

- Creating more green sustainable travel links in the constituency, including the reopening of Salford railway station
- Improving rural internet connectivity
- Achieving Net Zero Targets
- Building more affordable homes in the right locations
- Investing in town centres
- Keeping rural buses