

# Labour holds Whitburn seat

**Labour has retained the seat in the Whitburn ward vacated by newly elected MP Kirsteen Sullivan, with the election of David Russell.**

Mr Russell will join fellow Labour councillor George Paul following Thursday's by-election in Whitburn and Blackburn following a narrow victory over SNP rival Aileen Brown.

It will give Labour 12 sitting councillors compared to the SNP's 15, Conservatives four, one Lib Dem and one Independent.

Labour group leader on West Lothian Council, and the council leader, Lawrence Fitzpatrick told the Local Democracy Reporting Service: "I'm delighted with David's election. He will be a first-class councillor for the ward.

"He has the essential attributes of energy, integrity and commitment and I'm certain that he will prove an outstanding community representative."

The poll was a disappointment for former Bathgate councillor Charles Kennedy who had hoped to return to the chambers representing the Conservatives.

The party fell well behind Reform's candidate David McLennan and local community council chairman Tam Lynch, who polled 421 votes bstanding as an independent.

The full results were:

Aileen Brown (SNP) – 1,022

Douglas Butler (Scottish Liberal Democrats) – 97

Cameron Glasgow (Scottish Greens) – 92

Charles Kennedy (Scottish Conservative & Unionist) – 239

Thomas Lynch (Independent) – 421

David McLennan (Reform UK) – 578

David Russell (Scottish Labour Party) – 1,093

David Russell was elected as councillor for the ward at stage  
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By Stuart Sommerville, Local Democracy Reporter