

<b>Report to:</b>	Full Council
<b>Date of meeting:</b>	Wednesday, 17 July 2024
<b>Title:</b>	Report on the Borough Council By-election in the Grange and Alver Valley Ward held on Thursday, 04 July 2024
<b>Author:</b>	Returning Officer for the Borough of Gosport
<b>Status:</b>	For Noting

## 1.0 Background

1.1 I have to report that a vacancy arose for the office of Councillor for the Grange and Alver Valley Ward of the Borough following the sad passing of Councillor Maggie Morgan.

## 2.0 Report

2.1 Four candidates were validly nominated in the election of a Councillor for the Grange and Alver Valley Ward to fill the resulting vacancy.

2.2 A Poll was taken on Thursday, 04 July 2024 and the votes cast for the respective candidates were as follows:

<b>Name of candidate</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Number of votes</b>
Robbie George BEECH	Local Conservative	639
Jonathan BROWN	Labour Party candidate	749
Dale FLETCHER	Independent	243
Clive FOSTER-REED	Liberal Democrat	307

2.3 Accordingly, I duly declared elected the candidate who received the greatest number of votes, namely Jonathan Brown who will serve until May 2026.

2.4 The total eligible electorate was 4,509, and I sent out 680 postal vote packs, and there were 15 proxy voters for this election. 455 postal vote packs were returned and accepted, and 20 were rejected (13 for failing the personal identifier checks, and 7 for incomplete postal vote pack returned (2 for no postal vote statement returned, and 5 for no ballot paper returned).

2.5 Voter Identification evaluation:

- 12 electors produced a Voter Authority Certificate to be issued with a ballot paper;
- 0 electors requested that their ID be checked in private;
- 0 electors were not issued a ballot paper due to not having an acceptable form of ID.

**2.6** Voter Identification statistics:

- 239 electors used a Passport to be issued with a ballot paper;
- 1,154 electors used a Driving Licence to be issued with a ballot paper;
- 12 electors used a Voter Authority Certificate to be issued with a ballot paper;
- 77 electors used a Travel Pass to be issued with a ballot paper; and
- 59 electors used other acceptable photograph ID to be issued with a ballot paper.
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**2.7** Turnout for the by-election was:

Polling Station 20: Grange Junior School – 42.52%

Polling Station 21 – Youth, Arts & Media Centre – 34.14%

Polling Station 22 – Youth, Arts & Media Centre – 42.27%

Postal vote response – 66.91%

Overall turnout – 43.56%