

On May the 3rd all 32 London boroughs will elect their local Councillors.

Capital Letters will be issued every week until the elections and each edition will highlight a key borough and provide the latest news and analysis.



Croydon Council

Croydon, the suburban town moving towards Labour

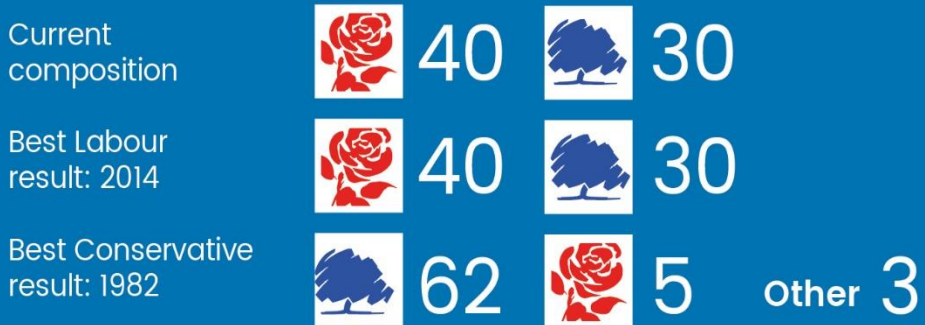
Labour won its first majority in Croydon in 1984, after 30 years of trying to take the borough from the Conservatives. Since then, control of Croydon has ebbed and flowed, with Labour winning a majority in 2014 after 8 years of Tory rule.

The borough used to be solidly suburban, but the spread of higher density and a population demographic starting to resemble central London more closely, has gradually tilted the borough towards Labour. The northern part of the borough has the strongest support for Labour, whilst the southern parts are staunchly Conservative. The central wards therefore form the key battlegrounds. At the 2017 General Election, the increasing tilt towards Labour became apparent when Conservative MP for Croydon Central and Housing Minister Gavin Barwell lost his marginal seat.

Big changes in Croydon

The approval in January 2018 of the [new Westfield shopping centre in Croydon](#) by the Mayor of London and Croydon Council, is the latest sign of how the once suburban borough is changing. The ruling Labour group set up [Brick by Brick](#), a Council owned development company to provide 1000 new homes by 2019. There are proposals for more housing density around transport links in the [draft London Plan](#), and the upgrade of the capacity of [East Croydon train station](#) will all add to the changing demographic profile of Croydon.

Croydon Snapshot



What will happen on May 3rd?

Locally, a redistribution of ward boundaries has weakened traditional incumbency factors. Coupled with the wider swing expected across London, this is likely to result in the Conservatives going backwards on 3rd May and expect Labour to consolidate and strengthen their position.