

Local Government By-Election – 12 October, 2017

Brief explanation of the Single Transferable Vote (STV) system

1. At this by-election, there is one vacancy to be filled. Members are elected using the **STV** system. The key features of this method are explained below.
2. At the count, the ward will be allocated an **electoral quota**. If a candidate attains the electoral quota they are elected. The quota is calculated by dividing the number of valid ballot papers (total votes cast minus any rejected papers) by one more than the number of vacancies, plus one. For example:
 - Number of places to be filled - 1
 - Total number of ballot papers - 2,931
 - Number of rejected ballot papers - 43, therefore
 - The number of valid ballot papers is 2,888, and the quota is:
 - Quota = $(2,888/(1+1))+1 = 1444 +1 = 1445$
3. If a candidate gets more votes than the quota at any stage, then they are elected.
4. If no candidate has attained the quota on first preference votes, the candidate with the lowest number of votes will be excluded and their votes are transferred to continuing candidates or are 'non-transferable'
5. This process is repeated until one candidate reaches the quota.