

COMMITTEE:	COUNCIL
DATE:	18 MAY 2005
SUBJECT:	PARLIAMENTARY AND COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTIONS HELD ON 5 MAY 2005
REPORT OF:	CHIEF EXECUTIVE
Ward(s):	All
Purpose:	To inform the Council of the results of the elections held on 5 May 2005 and related statistical information.
Contact:	<p>Martin Ray, Chief Executive. Telephone 01323 415002 or internally on extension 5002.</p> <p>David Robinson, Local Democracy Manager. Telephone 01323 415022 or internally on extension 5022.</p> <p>Tracey Pannett, Electoral Services Manager</p> <p>Telephone 01323 415074 or internally on extension 5074.</p>
Recommendation:	To note the report.

1.0	<u>Introduction</u>	

1.1	This report deals with the elections held on Thursday 5 May 2005. Details of the results and of the candidates elected are given together with other related information. Although not a requirement to report these results to Council (unlike the practice for Borough Council elections) it is considered appropriate to do so in order to maintain a running record of elections held in Eastbourne and for a summary document such as this to be retained permanently in the public domain.		
1.2	The county council elections were combined with those for Parliament. The Parliamentary Constituency comprises the whole of the Borough of Eastbourne together with the parishes of Willingdon, Jevington, East Dean and Friston. The area outside the Borough forms one-half of the 2 member county division of Polegate, Willingdon and East Dean.		
1.3	The county elections were held in respect of all 9 seats in the Borough. The county division boundaries had recently been redrawn and in place of the former 8 divisions there were now 9 divisions with boundaries and names matching those of the Borough's Wards.		
1.4	A total of 38 candidates stood for the County elections representing 5 political parties (Conservative, Green, Labour, Liberal Democrats and the UK Independence Party).		
2.0	<u>County Results</u>		
2.1	A copy of the election results for the 9 Eastbourne divisions is attached at Appendix 1 .		
2.2	Across the County of East Sussex as a whole a total of 49 seats were contested. 29 Conservative, 14 Liberal Democrat, 5 Labour and 1 Independent councillors were elected. The previous council composition was 24 Conservative, 14 Liberal Democrat and 6 Labour (a total of 44 seats).		
2.3	The share of the vote across the whole town for each of the parties was as follows:		
	Conservatives	39.60%	
	Green	5.19%	

	Labour*	8.97%		
	Liberal Democrats	45.17%		
	UK Independence*	1.06%		
	(*Labour contested 8 seats and UKIP 3 seats)			
	(Figures rounded to 2 decimal places)			
3.0	<u>Parliamentary Results</u>			
3.1	A copy of the election result is attached at Appendix 2.			
3.2	The share of the vote across the whole constituency for each of the parties was as follows:			
	Conservatives	43.46%		
	Green	1.96%		
	Labour	10.88%		
	Liberal Democrats	41.14%		
	UK Independence	2.55%		
	(Figures rounded to 2 decimal places)			

3.3	A 5% share of the vote is required to save a candidate's £500 deposit.			
4.0	<u>Electoral Turnout Figures</u>			
4.1	The total local electorate was 69,042. Overall the electoral turnout was 63.28%. The parliamentary electorate was 74,759 and the electoral turnout was 65.00%.			
5.0	Poll Cards			
5.1	Poll cards were again printed in a larger format with additional information advising how to apply for a postal vote. The poll cards were despatched about 5 weeks prior to election day. Following the announcement of a general election further poll cards for the parliamentary election were despatched.			
6.0	Absent Voting			
	-			
6.1	The significant upward trend in the numbers of people applying for postal votes has continued. Postal voters now comprise nearly 20% of the total electorate and of all the valid votes received 24% were received from postal voters.			
6.2	The following table shows trends in postal voting in local elections since 2000:			
	Year	Sent out	Returned	% return
	2000	1,872	1,249	66.7
	2002	3,404	2,368	69.5
	2003	6,335	4,271	67.4
	2004	10,178	7,507	73.7
	2005*	14,546	11,872	81.62

		13,336	10,733	80.48	
	* The top line shows issue and receipt of Parliamentary postal ballots across the whole constituency and the bottom for the 9 County divisions in the Borough of Eastbourne only.				
6.3	Rejected Postal Votes:				
	Rejection reason:	2002	2003	2004	2005*
	Incomplete declaration of identity:	32	39	127	160 155
	Without declaration of identity:	17	23	44	17 14
	Without ballot paper:	1	16	125	53 133
	Total number rejected:	50	78	297	230 302
	* The top figure given for 2005 is for the Parliamentary election and the bottom figure for the County elections.				

6.4	The total number of replacement postal voting ballot papers issued was 39. These were provided to people who had not received their papers. Proof of identity with photograph is generally required in these cases. The numbers of postal votes received after the close of poll and too late to be counted is 59 at the time of writing (11 May).
-----	--

6.5	A total of 171 proxy votes were granted. This compared with 123 in 2004, 87 in 2003, 204 in 2002 and 163 in 2000.
7.0	<u>Polling Stations</u>
7.1	37 polling stations were opened between the hours of 7.00 a.m. and 10.00 p.m. on the 5 May at 34 different venues. A total of 123 people were employed for the day to staff the stations.
8.0	<u>Counting Arrangements</u>
8.1	The count took place at the Kings Centre, Edison Road, Hampden Park. The venue was chosen as it could provide 2 large halls and additional space to allow for both counts to be undertaken on the same night. 140 counting staff plus a further 21 were engaged for the purposes of counting the votes and associated tasks. The count commenced at 10.00 p.m. on the 5 May. Other Council staff assisted, including Local Democracy staff, Town Hall reception and support staff, Press Office and Communications staff and the members of the Council's Corporate Management Team. The first stage of the Count was to verify the numbers of both the county and parliamentary ballot papers. Once this task was completed (at about midnight) the 2 counts began in separate halls.
8.2	The Parliamentary result was declared at approx. 3.15am. The County election results were then declared afterwards.
9.0	<u>De-briefing</u>

9.1	As is now the usual practice, party election agents will be invited to a de-brief meeting with the objective of improving upon the arrangements for future years. This has yet to be arranged but I would anticipate that it will take place in late July. It would be helpful if any Members who wish to raise any issues or make suggestions for the future could draw these to my attention or raise them direct with their party agent.
10.0	<u>Conclusion</u>
10.1	In conclusion I would like to thank all the Council's staff and in particular the Local Democracy team for their efforts in the arrangements and successful conduct of the election process. I would also like to make special mention of the efforts of all those involved in the issue and opening of the postal votes. The ever increasing numbers of postal voters means that this part of the election process is assuming a level of importance on a par with the organisation and staffing of the polling stations and of the main count and now requires a comparable investment in the resources devoted to it. I would also wish to thank the Party Agents for their co-operation and understanding.
Martin Ray Chief Executive	
Background Papers: East Sussex County Council Election Results web-page at: http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/yourcouncil/localelections/electionmap/results.aspx .	

Appendix 1

East Sussex County Council Elections in Eastbourne

Results of Elections Held Thursday 5 May 2005

Devonshire Division	Electorate:	7870	Turnout:	55.29%
----------------------------	-------------	------	----------	--------

Party:	Candidate:	E if elected	Votes
Labour	Richard Huntley Goude		509
Conservative	Kenneth Eric John Graham		1074
Green	Clive Daniel Gross		231
Liberal Democrats	Beryl Anne Healy	E	2395
UK Independence	Leonard Roy Richardson		125

Hampden Park Division	Electorate:	7167	Turnout:	58.87%
------------------------------	-------------	------	----------	--------

Party:	Candidate:	E if elected	Votes
Conservative	Edward Abella		851
Green	Leslie Dalton		192
Labour	Nora Ann Ring		695
Liberal Democrats	Olive Marion Mary Woodall	E	2452

Langney Division	Electorate:	7389	Turnout:	56.14%
-------------------------	-------------	------	----------	--------

Party:	Candidate:	E if elected	Votes
Liberal Democrats	Jon Paul Harris	E	2218
Labour	James Joseph Nolan		538
Green	Christine May Quarrington		161
Conservative	Lorraine June Zonneveld		1196

Meads Division	Electorate:	7718	Turnout:	66.47%
-----------------------	-------------	------	----------	--------

Party:	Candidate:	E if elected	Votes
Green	Kate Elizabeth Arnold		261
UK Independence	Ian Peter Neville Cameron		136
Labour	Dennis Leslie Scard		384
Conservative	Barry Edward Taylor	E	3066
Liberal Democrats	Margaret Diane Tichehurst		1234

Old Town Division	Electorate:	7793	Turnout:	73.20%
------------------------------	-------------	------	----------	--------

Party:	Candidate:	E if elected	Votes
Labour	Colin Charles Akers		360
Conservative	Ronald George Cussons		2188
Liberal Democrats	Maurice Skilton	E	2921
Green	Zoe Victoria Vonderdell		365

Ratton Division	Electorate:	7746	Turnout:	70.09%
------------------------	-------------	------	----------	--------

Party:	Candidate:	E if elected	Votes
UK Independence	Kenneth Stanley Alderton		198
Labour	Martin John Falkner		501
Green	Kevin Leslie Moore		171
Conservative	Michael Elliott Tunwell	E	2816
Liberal Democrats	Andrew Christopher John Watkins		1717

St Anthony's Division	Electorate:	8173	Turnout:	64.97%
------------------------------	-------------	------	----------	--------

Party:	Candidate:	E if elected	Votes
Labour	Ian Derek Culshaw		467
Conservative	Brian Jones		1520
Green	Hugh James Norris		223
Liberal Democrats	David Owen Tutt	E	3080

Sovereign Division	Electorate:	7572	Turnout:	60.59%
---------------------------	-------------	------	----------	--------

Party:	Candidate:	E if elected	Votes
Conservative	David Walter Elkin	E	2220
Green	Jocelyn Mccarthy		320
Liberal Democrats	Margaret Elizabeth Salsbury		2007

Upperton Division	Electorate:	7614	Turnout:	61.51%
--------------------------	-------------	------	----------	--------

Party:	Candidate:	E if elected	Votes
Labour	Elizabeth Ann Goude		442
Conservative	Robert Macleod (Bob) Lacey	E	2274
Liberal Democrats	Richard Noden		1602
Green	John Storey-Tennant		332

Note: Elections will be conducted on new boundaries based on the current 9 Borough

Council wards for one county councillor each division. 2001 elections were for 8 County Council division of one Councillor each.

East Sussex County Council will have 49 members representing 44 divisions (5 of which return 2 members).

Appendix 2

EASTBOURNE PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY

ELECTION HELD ON 5 MAY 2005

The total number of votes recorded for each candidate at the election was as follows:

Name of Candidate	Description	Number of Votes
Clive Daniel GROSS	Green Party	949
Andrew Malcolm JONES	The Labour Party Candidate	5,268
Stephen Anthony Christopher LLOYD	Liberal Democrats	19,909
Andrew Paul MEGGS	UK Independence Party	1,233
Nigel Christopher WATERSON	The Conservative Party Candidate	21,033

The under-mentioned person was duly elected to serve as the Member of Parliament for the

Eastbourne Constituency:

Nigel Christopher **WATERSON**

The number of ballot papers rejected and not counted was as follows:

Reason for rejection	Number rejected
Want of official mark	Nil
Voting for more than one candidate	27
Writing of mark by which the voter could be identified	10
Unmarked or void for uncertainty	82
Total:	119