

Body: COUNCIL

Date: 16 MAY 2007

Subject: BOROUGH COUNCIL ELECTIONS HELD ON 3 MAY 2007

Report of: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Ward(s): All

Purpose: To inform the Council of the results of the elections held on 3 May 2007 and related statistical information.

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Recommendation: To note the report.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This report deals with the elections held on Thursday 3 May 2007. Details of the results and of the candidates elected are given together with other related information.
- 1.2 These elections were held for all of the Council seats. Three in each of the 9 wards. This followed approval given by the Secretary of State to *The Borough of Eastbourne (Whole Council Elections) Order 2006*. The Order changed the Council's electoral arrangements. Elections by thirds was replaced by whole council elections. The next borough elections will be held in 2011 with the county council elections in 2009.
- 1.3 A total of 89 candidates stood for election representing 5 political parties (Conservative, Green, Labour, Liberal Democrats and UKIP). Only the Liberal Democrats and Conservatives fielded candidates in respect of all 27 vacancies, although all parties except UKIP had candidates in all 9 wards.

2.0 Results

- 2.1 A copy of the election results for the 9 Eastbourne wards is attached at **Appendix 1**.
- 2.2 The candidates elected and their terms of office (see note below) are as follows:-

Ward:	Full name of Councillors:
Devonshire	Margaret Elizabeth BANNISTER , Neil David Aloysius STANLEY , Steven WALLIS
Hampden Park	Mary Anne POOLEY , Michael John THOMPSON , Olive Marian Mary WOODALL
Langney	Harun MIAH , Daniel Martin PURCHASE , Troy Aiden TESTER
Meads	David Walter ELKIN , Nigel Royston GOODYEAR , Barry Edward TAYLOR
Old Town	Andrew Lewis GOODWIN , Carolyn Joan HEAPS , Gregory Michael John SZANTO
Ratton	Colin Sidney BELSEY , Sandie Mary HOWLETT , Barbara Mary Verene GOODALL
St Anthony's	Jon Paul HARRIS , Gillian MATTOCK , David Owen TUTT
Sovereign	Michael Robert BLOOM , Susan Sarah MORRIS , Margaret Elizabeth SALSBURY
Upperton	Alexandra HOUGH , Rebecca Jane MADELL , Graham Harvey MARSDEN

Term of office. The term of office for all of the above named Councillors will expire on the 4th day after the ordinary day of election (i.e. the first Thursday in May) in the year 2011.

- 2.3 The share of the vote across the whole town for each of the parties was as follows:

Conservatives	39.86%
Green	6.58%
Labour	4.69%
Liberal Democrats	46.25%
UKIP	2.61%

(Note: Figures rounded to 2 decimal places. Where 2 or more candidates stood for the same party in a ward an average of the votes for those candidates was used in calculating the share of the overall vote)

3.0 Electoral Turnout Figures

- 3.1 The total local electorate was 70,566. Overall, the electoral turnout was 42.26%. Turnout by ward is shown in the appendix to this report. This ranged from 31.99% in Hampden Park to 54.76% in Old Town. Previous year's turnout figures (by ward) going back to 2002 are available on request.

4.0 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. In addition, poll cards were sent to all postal voters for the first time under new rules designed to improve postal vote security.

5.0 Absent Voting

- 5.1 The significant upward trend in the numbers of people applying for postal votes in recent years has abated. The total has once again fallen a little but still remains above 12,000. Postal voters now comprise just over 17% of the total electorate. Of all the votes counted 33.2% were received from postal voters.
- 5.2 This year, across the country, the government implemented new regulations governing postal voting to improve security. All postal voters' signatures and dates of birth are now held on computer from information provided when application is made. The voting procedure now requires postal voters to sign and give their date of birth when returning their vote. This requires signature recognition software to be linked to our electoral computer system. The whole process is very time consuming but we successfully achieved our objective in checking all returned postal votes.
- 5.3 The following table shows trends in postal voting in local elections since 2000:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Sent out</i>	<i>Returned</i>	<i>% return</i>
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	81.6
	13,336	10,733	80.5
2006	12,999	9,168	70.5
2007	12,202	10,013	82.7

* 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.

5.3 **Rejected Postal Votes:**

Rejection reason:	2006	2007
Incomplete declaration of identity:	192	n/a
Without declaration of identity:	20	n/a
Without ballot paper:	16	39
Signature absent or did not match	n/a	35
Date of birth not given or incorrect	n/a	71
Missing signature and date of birth	n/a	20
No valid postal voters' statementV	n/a	26
Total number rejected:	228	191

(Note: Due to the change in procedures the reasons for rejection have changed).

- 5.4 The total number of replacement postal voting ballot papers issued was 43. These were provided to people who had either not received their papers or had lost them (36 in total) or had spoilt them and needed replacements (7 in total). 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 105 at the time of writing (10 May).
- 5.5 A total of 48 proxy votes were granted including, for the first time, one emergency proxy dealt with on the day of poll. This compared with 53 in 2006, 171 in 2005, 123 in 2004, 87 in 2003 and 204 in 2002.

6.0 **Polling Stations**

- 6.1 31 polling stations were opened between the hours of 7.00 a.m. and 10.00 p.m. on the 3 May at 28 different venues. A total of 109 people were employed for the day to staff the stations.

7.0 **Counting Arrangements**

- 7.1 The count took place at the Floral Hall of the Winter Gardens. 114 counting staff were engaged for the purposes of counting the votes. The count commenced at 10.00 p.m. on the 3 May. Other Council staff assisted, including Local Democracy staff, Town Hall reception and support staff, theatres, press office, IT and Steria staff and the members of the Council's Corporate Management Team.
- 7.2 The initial verification stages were completed by about 11.30pm. At this stage the numbers of ballots in the boxes are reconciled with the numbers issued in polling stations and at the opening of the postal votes. The first result was declared at 1.15am (Devonshire Ward) and the last at 2.40am (Upperton).
- 7.3 The Council's website was updated directly from the counting hall and the results displayed on the website shortly after each result was declared.

8.0 De-briefing

- 8.1 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 will take place on 7 June 2007. 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.

9.0 Conclusion

- 9.1 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 wish to thank the Party Agents for their co-operation and understanding.

Martin Ray
Chief Executive

Background Papers: None.

RESULTS OF ELECTIONS HELD THURSDAY 3 MAY 2007

Devonshire Ward	<i>Electorate:</i> 7664	<i>Turnout:</i> 34.51
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<i>Candidate:</i>	<i>Party:</i>	<i>E if elected</i>	<i>Votes</i>
Margaret Elizabeth BANNISTER	Liberal Democrat	E	1598
Sandra Margaret ELKIN	Conservative		619
Keith Vernon GELL	Labour		160
Marco GIORGI	Conservative		569
Richard Huntley GOUDE	Labour		155
Camilla LAU	Conservative		632
Simon Thomas PAYNE	Green		229
Len RICHARDSON	UKIP		157
Neil David Aloysius STANLEY	Liberal Democrat	E	1442
Zoe Victoria VONDERDELL	Green		224
Steven WALLIS	Liberal Democrat	E	1395

Hampden Park Ward	<i>Electorate:</i> 7243	<i>Turnout:</i> 31.99
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<i>Candidate:</i>	<i>Party:</i>	<i>E if elected</i>	<i>Votes</i>
Bill BAILEY	Conservative		499
Christopher John BRECHLY	Conservative		555
David Charles BRINSON	Labour		230
Leslie DALTON	Green		208
Ivor HUETING	Green		164
Finn O'SHEA	Green		181
Mary Anne POOLEY	Liberal Democrat	E	1338
Ann RING	Labour		274
David Michael SALMON	Labour		197
Milly SKRICZKA	Conservative		417
Mike THOMPSON	Liberal Democrat	E	1138
Olive Marian Mary WOODALL	Liberal Democrat	E	1277

Langney Ward	<i>Electorate:</i> 7551	<i>Turnout:</i> 34.04
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<i>Candidate:</i>	<i>Party:</i>	<i>E if elected</i>	<i>Votes</i>
Colin Charles AKERS	Labour		174
Amy ERRIDGE	Green		163
Tony Graham FREEBODY	Conservative		912
Marcus MADDISON-WHITE	Conservative		826
Harun MIAH	Liberal Democrat	E	1453
Daniel Martin PURCHESE	Liberal Democrat	E	1310
Chris QUARRINGTON	Green		192
John Ross STANBURY	Conservative		806
Troy Aiden TESTER	Liberal Democrat	E	1333

Meads Ward	<i>Electorate:</i> 7841	<i>Turnout:</i> 47.88
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<i>Candidate:</i>	<i>Party:</i>	<i>E if elected</i>	<i>Votes</i>
Kate ARNOLD	Green		457
Harry BOYS	Green		375
Brendan CREAVEN	Liberal Democrat		681
David Walter ELKIN	Conservative	E	2387
Jean FISHER	Liberal Democrat		692
Dorothy Hilda FORSYTH	Green		299
Nigel Royston GOODYEAR	Conservative	E	2329
Dennis Leslie SCARD	Labour		220
Barry Edward TAYLOR	Conservative	E	2407
Margaret Diane TICEHURST	Liberal Democrat		729

Old Town Ward	<i>Electorate:</i> 8127	<i>Turnout:</i> 54.76
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<i>Candidate:</i>	<i>Party:</i>	<i>E if elected</i>	<i>Votes</i>
Anne Frances ANGEL	Conservative		1890
Anne CHAMBERS	UKIP		191
Ann Elizabeth COTTRELL	Labour		190
Andrew Lewis GOODWIN	Liberal Democrat	E	2007
Clive Daniel GROSS	Green		681
Carolyn Joan HEAPS	Liberal Democrat	E	2202
Simon David HERBERT*	Conservative		1667
Ian James LUCAS	Conservative		1772
Gregory John Michael SZANTO	Liberal Democrat	E	1939

Ratton Ward	<i>Electorate:</i> 7707	<i>Turnout:</i> 48.29
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<i>Candidate:</i>	<i>Party:</i>	<i>E if elected</i>	<i>Votes</i>
Ken ALDERTON	UKIP		270
Colin Sidney BELSEY	Conservative	E	2076
Nancy Jane DALTON	Green		332
Barbara Mary Verene GOODALL	Conservative	E	1970
Patricia Mary Charlotte HEARN	Liberal Democrat		1184
Sandie Mary HOWLETT	Conservative	E	1920
John Terence Anthony MOORE	Liberal Democrat		1128
Kev MOORE	Green		240
Jim NOLAN	Labour		172
Brian Leslie STAKER	Liberal Democrat		1023

St Anthony's Ward	<i>Electorate:</i> 8285	<i>Turnout:</i> 41.27
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<i>Candidate:</i>	<i>Party:</i>	<i>E if elected</i>	<i>Votes</i>
Jane CHALLEN	Conservative		766
Ian Derek CULSHAW	Labour		170
Jon Paul HARRIS	Liberal Democrat	E	2242
Gill MATTOCK	Liberal Democrat	E	2193
Hugh James Patrick NORRIS	Green		199
Rob SIER	Green		156
Susan Helena STEINBERG	Conservative		710
Tom STODDART	Conservative		735
David Owen TUTT	Liberal Democrat	E	2344

Sovereign Ward	<i>Electorate:</i> 8469	<i>Turnout:</i> 38.98
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<i>Candidate:</i>	<i>Party:</i>	<i>E if elected</i>	<i>Votes</i>
Michael Robert BLOOM	Liberal Democrat	E	1756
Jocelyn MCCARTHY	Green		269
David MIERES	Labour		121
Tracy Joan MOLES	Conservative		1298
Susan Sarah MORRIS	Liberal Democrat	E	1762
Margaret Elizabeth SALSBURY	Liberal Democrat	E	1692
Patrick Hugh Daniel WARNER	Conservative		1379
Christopher Robin John WILLIAMS	Conservative		1294

Upperton Ward	<i>Electorate:</i> 7679	<i>Turnout:</i> 46.33
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<i>Candidate:</i>	<i>Party:</i>	<i>E if elected</i>	<i>Votes</i>
Elizabeth Ann GOUDE	Labour		149
Alex HOUGH	Liberal Democrat	E	1610
Bob LACEY	Conservative		1534
Stephanie Marie LEWIS	Green		253
Geraldine Anne MACKILLOP	UKIP		146
Rebecca Jane MADELL	Liberal Democrat	E	1573
Graham Harvey MARSDEN	Conservative	E	1557
Paul Anthony MURDEN	UKIP		145
Ann Patricia MURRAY	Conservative		1449
Pat RODOHAN	Liberal Democrat		1530
Liam Anthony STEPHENS	Green		224