



Body: Council

Date: 27 May 2015

Subject: Borough Council and Eastbourne Borough Constituency Parliamentary Elections held on 7 May 2015

Report of: Chief Executive and Returning Officer

Ward(s): All

Purpose: To inform the Council of the results of the elections held on 7 May 2015 and related information.

Contact: Robert Cottrill, Chief Executive. Telephone 01323 415002 or internally on extension 5002.

David Robinson, Senior Local Democracy Officer. Telephone 01323 415022 or internally on extension 5022.

Tracey Pannett, Electoral Services Manager
Telephone 01323 415074 or internally on extension 5074.

Recommendation: To note the report.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This report deals with the elections held on Thursday 7 May 2015. Details of the results and of the candidates elected are given together with other related information.
- 1.2 The election for the Eastbourne parliamentary constituency seat was combined with the borough council elections held for all 27 of the council seats in the borough's 9 wards.
- 1.3 A total of 6 candidates stood in the parliamentary election.
- 1.4 A total of 115 candidates stood for election to the borough council representing 5 political parties (Conservative, Green, Labour, Liberal Democrats and UKIP). Only Labour, Liberal Democrats and Conservatives fielded candidates in respect of all 27 vacancies, with UKIP fielding 3 candidates in 6 wards. In addition there 2 independent candidates (one in each of Devonshire and Hampden Park wards).

2.0 Results

- 2.1 A copy of the notice of result is at **appendix 1**. Caroline Ansell for the

Conservatives won the election with a 733 majority over the Liberal Democrat Stephen Lloyd, the former Member of Parliament. Stephen Lloyd had served as MP since 2010.

2.2 The share of the total vote across the Constituency for each of the candidates was as follows:

Ansell (Conservative Party)	39.57%
Lloyd (Liberal Democrats)	38.18%
Jones (UK Independence Party)	11.60%
Lambert (Labour Party)	7.83%
Durling (Green Party)	2.55%
Howard (Independent)	0.26%

(Note: Figures rounded to 2 decimal places).

2.3 A copy of the election results for the 9 Eastbourne wards is attached at **Appendix 2.**

2.4 The candidates elected to the borough council and their terms of office (see note below) are as follows:-

Ward:	Full name of Councillor:
Devonshire	Margaret Elizabeth BANNISTER , Steve HOLT , Steve WALLIS
Hampden Park	Pat HEARN , Jim MURRAY , Colin Richard SWANSBOROUGH
Langney	Harun MAIH , Alan SHUTTLEWORTH , Troy TESTER
Meads	Robert Christopher SMART , Kathy SMETHERS , Barry Edward TAYLOR
Old Town	Janet COLES , Jonathan Michael DOW , John UNGAR
Ratton	Colin Sidney BELSEY , Tony Graham FREEBODY , Colin MURDOCH
St Anthony's	Gillian MATTOCK , Dean SABRI , David Owen TUTT
Sovereign	Raymond Philip BLAKEBROUGH , Penny DI CARA , Gordon JENKINS
Upperton	Sammy CHOUDHURY , Pat RODOHAN , Margaret SALSBURY

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 2019.

2.5 The share of all of the valid votes across the whole town was as follows:

Liberal Democrats	38.61%
Conservative	32.62%
UK Independence Party	14.28%
Labour	10.85%
Green	3.36%
Independents	0.28%

(Note: Figures rounded to 2 decimal places)

3.0 Electoral turnout figures

3.1 Parliamentary

The electorate for the parliamentary constituency (including Willingdon) was 78,262. Turnout was 67.6%.

Borough

The electorate for the borough council election was 75,098. Overall, the electoral turnout was 65.55%. Turnout by ward is shown in the appendix to this report. This ranged from 56.20 in Devonshire to 74.29% in Old Town.

Note, the franchise for the different elections varies as certain categories of voters such as European electors cannot vote in parliamentary elections.

4.0 Absent voting

4.1 15,412 postal votes were sent out for the parliamentary election and 14,342 for the borough elections. Postal voters comprised nearly a fifth of the electorate and of all the votes received nearly a third were received from postal voters.

4.2 Numbers of postal votes returned were as follows:

Parliamentary:- 13,340

Borough:-

Devonshire	1,028
Hampden Park	900
Langney	1,059
Meads	1,642
Old Town	1,416
Ratton	1,699
St Anthony's	1,343
Sovereign	1,629
Upperton	1,443
Total:	12,159

4.2 Rejected Postal Votes:

Rejection reasons:-

Without ballot paper:	5
Signature absent or did not match	22

Date of birth not given or incorrect	51
Missing signature and date of birth	86
No valid postal voters' statement	22
Total number rejected:	186

4.3 The total number of replacement postal voting ballot papers issued was 32. These were provided to people who had either not received their papers or had lost them 28 in total) or had spoiled them and needed replacements 4 in total). Proof of identity with photograph is generally required in these cases.

4.4 A total of 337 (parliamentary election) and 301 (borough council election) proxy votes were granted. These included 15 emergency proxy applications.

5.0 Polling stations

5.1 38 polling stations were opened between the hours of 7.00 a.m. and 10.00 p.m. on the 7 May at 36 different venues. Four of these stations were located in Wealden for voters in the Willingdon/Wannock/Jevington area which is within the Eastbourne parliamentary constituency. In addition to an election for the Willingdon ward of WDC, elections were also held for Willingdon and Jevington parish council in the parish's Upper Willingdon ward.

5.2 A new polling station for voters in Sovereign ward polling district SVD was brought into use this year at Conqueror Hall.

6.0 Ballot papers

6.1 In the week preceding the election, the vehicle transporting ballot papers from the printers to Eastbourne and Hastings councils was stolen. Immediate steps were taken to re-print all the missing ballot papers on different colour paper from that originally used to guarantee the security of the election.

7.0 Counting arrangements

7.1 The parliamentary election count took place in the Floral Hall of the Winter Gardens. 144 counting staff plus supervising staff were engaged for the purposes of verifying the ballots for all elections and counting the parliamentary votes. The count commenced at 10.00 p.m. on the 7 May. A road closure of the lower section of College Road was also put in place for the evening to allow for queuing of cars bringing in ballot boxes from polling stations.

7.2 The initial verification stages (for both the parliamentary ballots and the local election ballots) were completed by about 1.20 a.m.. 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. After verification, the borough election ballots were removed and secured until the Saturday morning count. Ballots for the Willingdon local elections were transported to Wealden's count centre on the night. The parliamentary count commenced at 1.30 a.m. and the result was declared at 4.30 a.m..

- 7.4 The borough count commenced at 9 a.m. on Friday 9 May in the Assembly Hall at the Town Hall. 72 counting staff plus supervising staff were employed. Given the space limitations of the hall, 6 wards were counted first and as the first 3 wards were completed the final 3 ward counts were commenced. The first ward to declare was Devonshire at 12.30 p.m. and the last was Meads at 3.50 p.m.
- 7.5 A feature of the borough election count was the need to cope with the number of ballot papers where voters had voted for less than 3 candidates and where votes had been cast for candidates representing different parties. In total 40% of all ballot papers had to be counted using the 'grass-skirt' (counting sheets) method of counting. This, coupled with the combination of the election with the parliamentary election and, as a consequence, the higher turnout, meant that the count took longer than would ordinarily be the case.
- 7.6 Thanks needs to be recorded for the help and assistance from other teams across the Council for their assistance in setting up the count venues (Town Hall facilities, Winter Gardens, Events, Cobb PR, Customer Contact Centre, IT, members of the Council's Corporate Management Team) and the many other staff undertaking a range of roles at the count.

8.0 Joint purchasing arrangements

- 8.1 Eastbourne Electoral Services has joined with their counterparts in the other East Sussex district councils to jointly procure their election printing and stationery requirements in order to achieve economies of scale and improved discounts. As part of this collaborative work, a single county-wide contract was let for the printing of ballot papers, poll cards and postal votes.

9.0 De-briefing

- 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 will take place on 3 June 2015. 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 Conclusion

- 10.1 I would like to record my thanks to everyone who contributed to the election. As election day itself went smoothly it could be easy to underestimate the amount of work that went into making it a success and noting the many months of planning, helping people to register and dealing with thousands of postal votes leading up to the big day. I am grateful to everyone who worked a long hard day on polling day and on into the early hours of Friday and then again on Saturday morning with such enthusiasm and professionalism.

Robert Cottrill
Chief Executive and Returning Officer

PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION
EASTBOURNE BOROUGH CONSTITUENCY
7 MAY 2015 – RESULT OF POLL

I, the undersigned, being the Returning Officer at the Election of a Member to serve in Parliament for the Eastbourne Borough Constituency held on 7 May 2015, hereby give notice that the total number of votes recorded for each candidate at the election was as follows:

Name of Candidate	Description (if any)	Number of Votes
Caroline ANSELL	The Conservative Party Candidate	20,934
Andrew DURLING	The Green Party	1,351
Paul Andrew HOWARD	Independent	139
Nigel Hazell JONES	UK Independence Party (UKIP)	6,139
Jake Ethan LAMBERT	Labour Party	4,143
Stephen Anthony Christopher LLOYD	Liberal Democrats	20,201

And that the under-mentioned person has been duly elected to serve as the Member of Parliament for the said Constituency:

Caroline ANSELL

Also, that the number of ballot papers rejected and not counted by me at this election was as follows:

Reason for rejection	Number rejected
Want of official mark	Nil
Voting for more than one candidate	44
Writing of mark by which the voter could be identified	2
Unmarked or void for uncertainty	108
Total:	154

Signed: Janet Doris Coles
Returning Officer

Dated this 8th day of May 2015

RESULTS OF ELECTIONS HELD THURSDAY 7 MAY 2015

Devonshire Ward	<i>Electorate:</i> 9,085	<i>%Turnout:</i> 56.20
------------------------	--------------------------	------------------------

<i>Candidate:</i>	<i>Party:</i>	<i>E if elected</i>	<i>Votes</i>
Margaret Elizabeth BANNISTER	Liberal Democrats	E	2,287
Angela BENNETT	Labour Party		855
Dave BRINSON	Labour Party		776
Keith GELL	Independent		129
David GREENWOOD	UK Independence Party (UKIP)		798
Simon David HERBERT	The Conservative Party Candidate		861
Steven John HOBBS	The Conservative Party Candidate		831
Steve HOLT	Liberal Democrats	E	1,920
James David HOPKINS	The Conservative Party Candidate		736
Colin HORSCROFT	UK Independence Party (UKIP)		688
Bob LACEY	UK Independence Party (UKIP)		647
Alex LEA	The Green Party		531
Gerry STONESTREET	Labour Party		584
Steve WALLIS	Liberal Democrats	E	2,022

Hampden Park Ward	<i>Electorate:</i> 7,345	<i>%Turnout:</i> 59.01
--------------------------	--------------------------	------------------------

<i>Candidate:</i>	<i>Party:</i>	<i>E if elected</i>	<i>Votes</i>
Paul Alan BROWN	UK Independence Party (UKIP)		887
Patricia Mary Charlotte HEARN	Liberal Democrats	E	1,921
Simon Paul HOWE	The Conservative Party Candidate		954
Ivor Neil HUETING	The Green Party		407
Matthew James IRELAND	The Conservative Party Candidate		772
Helen Jean KEY	Labour Party		551
Eleanor Kim LAMBERT	Labour Party		626
Tom LIDDIARD	The Conservative Party Candidate		790
Jim MURRAY	Liberal Democrats	E	1,635
Dave POOLE	Independent		238
Douglas John SKELLEY	Labour Party		532
Colin Richard SWANSBOROUGH	Liberal Democrats	E	1,546
Barry Antony WRIGHT	UK Independence Party (UKIP)		828

Langney Ward	<i>Electorate:</i> 7,916	<i>%Turnout:</i> 58.94
---------------------	--------------------------	------------------------

<i>Candidate:</i>	<i>Party:</i>	<i>E if elected</i>	<i>Votes</i>
Gloria BARKER	The Conservative Party Candidate		1,032
Lee COMFORT	Labour Party		441
Ian Charles GARBUTT	UK Independence Party (UKIP)		930

Paul William GOSLING	The Conservative Party Candidate		962
Christopher John HOLLOWAY	UK Independence Party (UKIP)		848
Martin HOWIE	Labour Party		373
Harun MIAH	Liberal Democrats	E	1,920
Roy William NOBLE	Labour Party		336
Pippa OLIPHANT	The Green Party		260
Alex RICHARDS	The Conservative Party Candidate		961
Alan SHUTTLEWORTH	Liberal Democrats	E	2,389
Troy Aiden TESTER	Liberal Democrats	E	1,929

Meads Ward	<i>Electorate: 8,471 %Turnout: 70.16</i>
-------------------	--

<i>Candidate:</i>	<i>Party:</i>	<i>E if elected</i>	<i>Votes</i>
Sally Mary BOYS	The Green Party		713
Andrew CALLAGHAN	Liberal Democrats		1,399
Lucette Mary DAVIES	Labour Party		582
Michael John DEAN	UK Independence Party (UKIP)		803
Jean FISHER	Liberal Democrats		1,186
Lisa Jane GILLETTE	Labour Party		545
Rebecca MADELL	Liberal Democrats		1,372
Dennis Leslie SCARD	Labour Party		519
Robert Christopher SMART	The Conservative Party Candidate	E	2,573
Kathy SMETHERS	The Conservative Party Candidate	E	2,347
William Anthony Joseph SMITH	UK Independence Party (UKIP)		626
Barry Edward TAYLOR	The Conservative Party Candidate	E	2,416
Alan Charles THORNTON	UK Independence Party (UKIP)		642

Old Town Ward	<i>Electorate: 8,433 %Turnout: 74.29</i>
----------------------	--

<i>Candidate:</i>	<i>Party:</i>	<i>E if elected</i>	<i>Votes</i>
Anne Frances ANGEL	The Conservative Party Candidate		2,241
Graham BUCHANAN	The Conservative Party Candidate		1,830
Rob CLARKE	The Green Party		898
Janet Doris COLES	Liberal Democrats	E	2,613
Jean COUTURE	Labour and Co-operative Party		530
Vivienne DeHAVILLAND-GERAGHTY	The Conservative Party Candidate		1,492
Jonathan Michael DOW	Liberal Democrats	E	2,273
Robert HARPER	UK Independence Party (UKIP)		680
Paul Adrian RICHARDS	Labour and Co-operative Party		612
John Joseph UNGAR	Liberal Democrats	E	2,514
Sharon Ann WENTWORTH	Labour and Co-operative Party		477

Ratton Ward

Electorate: 7,877 %Turnout: 73.31

<i>Candidate:</i>	<i>Party:</i>	<i>E if elected</i>	<i>Votes</i>
David Charles ALFRED	UK Independence Party (UKIP)		924
Linda Elizabeth BECKMANN	Liberal Democrats		1,628
Colin Sidney BELSEY	The Conservative Party Candidate	E	2,441
Tony Graham FREEBODY	The Conservative Party Candidate	E	1,904
Anne GRIGG	Labour Party		466
Helen HILL	UK Independence Party (UKIP)		807
Roger Bury HOWARTH	Liberal Democrats		1,448
John LAMBERT	Labour Party		640
Brian McINTYRE	UK Independence Party (UKIP)		866
Colin MURDOCH	The Conservative Party Candidate	E	2,011
Daniel John NEILSON	Liberal Democrats		1,370
John OLIPHANT	The Green Party		356
John Joe WENTWORTH	Labour Party		380

St Anthony's Ward

Electorate: 8,258 %Turnout: 67.30

<i>Candidate:</i>	<i>Party:</i>	<i>E if elected</i>	<i>Votes</i>
Nicholas John Raymond ANSELL	The Conservative Party Candidate		1,465
Alan Andre BATTRUM	Labour Party		478
Ian Derek CULSHAW	Labour Party		418
Jacqueline Elizabeth FERGUSON	Labour Party		498
Robert Alexander FINDON	The Conservative Party Candidate		1,008
Terence Christopher GRANT	UK Independence Party (UKIP)		928
Gill MATTOCK	Liberal Democrats	E	2,272
Hugh NORRIS	The Green Party		325
Jayne Margaret PALMER	UK Independence Party (UKIP)		849
Danielle Emma PERRY	The Conservative Party Candidate		1,032
Dean SABRI	Liberal Democrats	E	2,081
Amanda Jane SHEEHAN	UK Independence Party (UKIP)		773
David Owen TUTT	Liberal Democrats	E	2,658

Sovereign Ward

Electorate: 9,394 %Turnout: 66.21

<i>Candidate:</i>	<i>Party:</i>	<i>E if elected</i>	<i>Votes</i>
Raymond Philip BLAKEBROUGH	The Conservative Party Candidate	E	2,707
Nicola Audrey BURTON	UK Independence Party (UKIP)		1,395
Penny DI CARA	The Conservative Party Candidate	E	2,366
Richard Huntley GOUDE	Labour Party		514

Gordon William JENKINS	The Conservative Party Candidate	E	2,219
Paul John KEEBLE	UK Independence Party (UKIP)		1,081
Barbara LEGGETT	Liberal Democrats		1,684
Samantha Louise Mary LYSTER	Labour Party		463
Nick MASKELYNE	Liberal Democrats		1,360
Sarah Elizabeth RICHARDS	Labour Party		437
Robert SIER	The Green Party		321
Anthony George SOMERS	Liberal Democrats		1,287
Jean Margaret SPENCER	UK Independence Party (UKIP)		984

Upperton Ward	<i>Electorate:</i> 8,319	<i>%Turnout:</i> 64.43
----------------------	--------------------------	------------------------

<i>Candidate:</i>	<i>Party:</i>	<i>E if elected</i>	<i>Votes</i>
Sammy CHOUDHURY	Liberal Democrats	E	1,900
Charlotte Louise CLIFFORD	UK Independence Party (UKIP)		627
Elizabeth Ann GOUDE	Labour Party		558
Alexandra HOUGH	The Green Party		588
Clive William JENNINGS	UK Independence Party (UKIP)		583
Simon Nicholas MILLAR	Labour Party		498
Diane Elizabeth MULKEIRINS	The Conservative Party Candidate		1,592
Adrian Oliver PLATT	The Conservative Party Candidate		1,562
Matthew Edward QUANSTROM	Labour Party		513
Pat RODOHAN	Liberal Democrats	E	2,109
Rita Jane ROLT	UK Independence Party (UKIP)		503
Margaret SALSBURY	Liberal Democrats	E	1,831
Annabelle Valerie WEST	The Conservative Party Candidate		1,605

Town-wide turnout: 65.55 %. (Electorate: 75,098)