

COMMITTEE:	COUNCIL
DATE:	14 MAY 2003
SUBJECT:	BOROUGH COUNCIL ELECTIONS HELD ON 1 MAY 2003
REPORT OF:	RETURNING OFFICER
Ward(s):	All
Purpose:	To formally advise the Council of the results of the elections held on 1 May 2003 and the names of the elected candidates and their terms of office.
Contact:	Martin Ray, Chief Executive. Telephone 01323 415002 or internally on extension 5002. David Robinson, Member Services Manager. Telephone 01323 415022 or internally on extension 5022.
Recommendation:	To note the report.
1.0	<u>Introduction</u>

1.1	This report deals with the elections held on Thursday 1 May 2003. Details of the results and of the candidates elected are given together with other related information.
1.2	These elections were held in respect of one third of the seats on the Council. One seat in each of the nine wards was contested.
1.3	A total of 33 candidates stood for election representing 5 political parties (6 if the joint candidature of Labour and Co-operative parties is counted).
2.0	<u>Results</u>
2.1	A copy of the full election results is attached at Appendix 1 .
2.2	The candidates elected and their terms of office (see note below) are as follows:-

	Ward:	Councillor's full name:	Term of office:
	Devonshire	Neil David Aloysius STANLEY	2007
	Hampden Park	Olive Marian Mary WOODALL	2007
	Langney	Robert Mark SLATER	2007
	Meads	David Walter ELKIN	2007
	Old Town	Ian James LUCAS	2007

	Ratton	Sandie Mary HOWLETT			2007
	St Anthony's	Norman James MARSH			2007
	Sovereign	Patrick Hugh Daniel WARNER			2007
	Upperton	Ann Patricia MURRAY			2007
	Note regarding term of office. The term of office will expire on the 4 th day after the ordinary day of election (i.e. the first Thursday in May) in the year given above for the councillor.				
3.0	<u>Electoral Turnout Figures</u>				
3.1	The total electorate was 67,632. Overall the electoral turnout was 33.6%. This compared with 33.9% when local elections were last held in the Borough on the 2 May 2002. The turnout ranged from 23.9% in Langney Ward to 46.9% in Old Town Ward.				
4.0	<u>Poll Cards</u>				
4.1	Poll cards were again printed in a larger format with additional information advising how to apply for a postal votes. The poll cards were despatched about 4 weeks prior to election day.				
5.0	<u>Absent Voting</u>				
5.1	<u>The following table shows trends in postal voting in local elections since 2000:</u>				
	Year	Sent out	Returned	% return	No. rejected
	2000	1,872	1,249	66.7	30

	2002	3,404	2,368	69.5	50
	2003	6,335	4,271	67.4	78
5.1	78 postal votes had to be rejected (these comprised 39 with incomplete declarations of identity, 17 without the declaration of identity, 16 where the voter did not return the ballot paper and 6 where the numbers on the ballot paper envelope did not match the number on the ballot paper).				
5.2	In 2002 a total of 50 postal votes had to be rejected (these comprised 32 with incomplete declarations of identity, 17 without the declaration of identity and one where the voter did not return the ballot paper).				
5.3	A total of 87 proxy votes were granted. This compared with 204 in 2002 and 163 in 2000.				
6.0	<u>Polling Stations</u>				
6.1	32 polling stations were opened between the hours of 8.00 a.m. and 9.00 p.m. on the 1 May at 30 different venues. A total of 114 people were employed for the day to staff the stations.				
7.0	<u>Counting Arrangements</u>				
7.1	A total of 81 staff were engaged for the purposes of the count which commenced at 9.00 p.m. on the 1 May. Other Council staff assisted, including Democratic Services staff, Town Hall reception and support staff, Press Office and Communications staff and I.T. staff. The election results were posted on the Council's website as the results were declared.				
7.2	The first result (Meads Ward) was declared at 10.40 p.m. with the final result (St. Anthony's Ward) being declared (soon after) at 11.15 p.m.				
8.0	<u>De-briefing</u>				

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 has yet to be arranged but I would anticipate that it will take place in late June or 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.	
9.0	<u>Electoral Services – Staffing</u>	
9.1	I would also like to take this opportunity to pay special thanks to Jan Smith-Taylor who will be retiring from her position as Electoral Services Manager this coming August. Jan has been in post since 1998. She first joined the Council in 1988 as an Electoral Registration Clerk. Jan has presided over many changes in the electoral process and is a valued and trusted colleague to all.	
9.2	Tracey Pannett has already been appointed (as an internal promotion) to take over Jan’s position as from 11 August 2003. Tracey is an active member of the Association of Electoral Administrators and holds the Association’s Certificate qualification.	
10.0	<u>Conclusion</u>	
10.1	In conclusion I would like to thank all the Council's staff and in particular the Democratic Services 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. All the election agents and the members were extremely complimentary about the conduct of the election. The organisation can only be such a success through the contribution of everyone in the organisation whether directly involved or not.	
	Martin Ray	
	Returning Officer and Chief Executive	

Background Papers:	
None.	
(der\P:council\03.05.14\returning officer report)	

Appendix 1

BOROUGH OF EASTBOURNE

RESULTS OF ELECTIONS HELD THURSDAY 1 MAY 2003

(*Councillors seeking re-election shown with an asterisk)

Devonshire Ward	Electorate:	7790	Turnout:	27.1%
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Party:	Candidate:	E if elected	Votes
Conservative	Kenneth Eric John GRAHAM		723
Green	Nancy Jane DALTON		160
Liberal Democrats	*Neil David Aloysius STANLEY	E	1222

Hampden Park Ward	Electorate:	7369	Turnout:	26.1%
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Party:	Candidate:	E if elected	Votes
Conservative	Edward ABELLA		414
Green	Leslie DALTON		107
Labour & Co-op	David Charles BRINSON		439
Liberal Democrats	*Olive Mary Marion WOODALL	E	955

Langney Ward	Electorate:	7422	Turnout:	23.9%
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Party:	Candidate:	E if elected	Votes
Conservative	Thomas John WALTERS		722
Green	Christine May QUARRINGTON		62
Labour	Jonathan Stephen PETTIGREW		153
Liberal Democrats	*Robert Mark SLATER	E	828

Meads Ward	Electorate:	7853	Turnout:	39.4%
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Party:	Candidate:	E if elected	Votes
Conservative	*David Walter ELKIN	E	2202
Green	Clive Daniel GROSS		154
Labour	David Robert BUCK		216
Liberal Democrats	Steven Michael WALLIS		518

Old Town Ward	Electorate:	7719	Turnout:	46.9%
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Party:	Candidate:	E if elected	Votes
Conservative	Ian James LUCAS	E	1813
Green	Liam Anthony STEPHENS		173
Labour	Robert David ROSSETTER		152
Liberal Democrats	*John Brendan CREAVEN		1471

Ratton Ward	Electorate:	7728	Turnout:	36.1%
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Party:	Candidate:	E if elected	Votes
Conservative	*Sandie Mary HOWLETT	E	1803
Green	Kevin Leslie MOORE		123
Labour	Martin John FALKNER		205
Liberal Democrats	Peter Alastair DURRANT		652

St Anthony's Ward	Electorate:	8146	Turnout:	30.6%
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Party:	Candidate:	E if elected	Votes
Conservative	Sheila CHARLTON		810
Labour	Nora Ann RING		190
Liberal Democrats	*Norman James MARSH	E	1349
U.K.Independence	Kenneth Stanley ALDERTON		138

Sovereign Ward	Electorate:	6096	Turnout:	37.8%
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Party:	Candidate:	E if elected	Votes
Conservative	*Patrick Hugh Daniel WARNER	E	1255
Liberal Democrats	Alan Robert CARROLL		1040

Upperton Ward	Electorate:	7509	Turnout:	35.0%
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Party:	Candidate:	E if elected	Votes
Conservative	*Ann Patricia MURRAY	E	1480
Green	John Clive MORRISON		144
Labour	Peter Louis TUCKER		153
Liberal Democrats	Stafford John GOWLAND		845