

COMMITTEE:	COUNCIL
DATE:	23 JUNE 2004
SUBJECT:	BOROUGH COUNCIL ELECTIONS HELD ON 10 JUNE 2004
REPORT OF:	RETURNING OFFICER
Ward(s):	All
Purpose:	To formally advise the Council of the results of the elections held on 10 June 2004 and the names of the elected candidates and their terms of office.
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 10 June 2004. Details of the results and of the candidates elected are given together with other related information.	

1.2	The local elections were combined with those for the South East Region of the European Parliamentary. Details of the results of the European Parliament election are also provided for information.		
1.3	These elections were held in respect of one third of the seats on the Council, together with one further seat in the Old Town ward where a vacancy was to be filled following the resignation of former Councillor Bert Leggett. Ten seats in total were contested. One in each of eight wards and two in Old Town ward.		
1.4	A total of 39 candidates stood for election representing 4 political parties (Conservative, Green, Labour and Liberal Democrats). Candidates from all 4 of these parties contested every seat with the exception of Sovereign where Labour did not field a candidate.		
2.0	<u>Local Results</u>		
2.1	A copy of the full election results is attached at Appendix 1.		
2.2	The share of the vote across the whole town for each of the parties was as follows:		
		Conservatives	51.07%
		Green	7.90%
		Labour	6.21%
		Liberal Democrats	34.81%
	(Note: Figures rounded to 2 decimal places. In Old Town an average of the votes for the parties 2 candidates was used).		
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	Margaret Elizabeth BANNISTER	2008

	Hampden Park	Michael John THOMPSON	2008
	Langney	Irene SIMS	2008
	Meads	Barry Edward TAYLOR	2008
	Old Town	Simon David HERBERT Maurice SKILTON	2008 2006
	Ratton	Barbara May Verene GOODALL	2008
	St Anthony's	Jon Paul HARRIS	2008
	Sovereign	Christopher Robin John WILLIAMS	2008
	Upperton	Robert MacLeod LACEY	2008
	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 local electorate was 66,821. Overall the electoral turnout was 40.97%. This compared with 33.6% when local elections were last held in the Borough on the 1 May 2003. The turnout ranged from 31.6% in Hampden Park Ward to 54.92% 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 vote. The poll cards were despatched about 5 weeks prior to election day.		
5.0	<u>Absent Voting</u>		

5.1	The significant upward trend in the numbers of people applying for postal votes has continued. Postal voters now comprise a little over 15% of the total electorate and of all the valid votes received some 26.5% were received from postal voters.				
5.2	<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
	2004	10,178*	7,507	73.7	297
	(*for the local elections, a total of 10,118 ballot papers were sent out in respect of the European election)				
5.4	297 postal votes had to be rejected (these comprised 127 with incomplete declarations of identity, 41 without the declaration of identity, 125 where the voter did not return the ballot paper and 4 where the numbers on the ballot paper envelope did not match the number on the ballot paper).				
5.5	In 2003, 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).				
5.6	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).				
5.7	A total of 123 proxy votes were granted. This compared with 87 in 2003, 204 in 2002 and 163 in 2000.				
6.0	<u>Polling Stations</u>				
6.1	31 polling stations were opened between the hours of 7.00a.m. and 10.00p.m. on the 10 June at 29 different venues. A total of 126 people were employed for the day to staff the stations.				

7.0	<u>Counting Arrangements</u>	
7.1	103 staff were engaged for the purposes of counting the votes. The count commenced at 10.00p.m. on the 10 June. Other Council staff assisted, including Democratic Services staff, Town Hall reception and support staff, Press Office and Communications staff, I.T. 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 local and European election ballot papers. Once this task was completed the count of local election ballots began and the European ballots were locked away. The election results were posted on the Council's web-site as the results were declared.	
7.2	The first result (Sovereign Ward) was declared at about 1.20p.m. with the final result (Old Town Ward) being declared at about 3.00p.m.	
7.3	The European election ballots were counted on Sunday 13 June commencing at 6pm in accordance with the direction issued by the Regional Returning Officer. A total of 54 staff were employed to count the votes. The results were declared at 9.00pm immediately after all the polls had closed across the European Community.	
8.0	<u>European election results</u>	
8.1	These are set out in Appendix 2	
9.0	<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 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>Conclusion</u>	
9.1	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 like to make special mention of the efforts of all those involved in the issue and opening of the postal votes. The 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. 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\04.06.23\returning officer report)	

Appendix 1

BOROUGH OF EASTBOURNE

RESULTS OF ELECTIONS HELD THURSDAY 10 JUNE 2004

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

Devonshire Ward	Electorate:	7,516	Turnout:	35.27
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Candidate:	Party:	E if elected	Votes
Margaret Elizabeth BANNISTER	Liberal Democrats	E	1177
Richard Huntley GOUDE	Labour		178
Kenneth Eric John GRAHAM	Conservative		1040
Clive Daniel GROSS	Green		239

Hampden Park Ward	Electorate:	6,987	Turnout:	31.60
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Candidate:	Party:	E if elected	Votes
Edward ABELLA	Conservative		636
David Charles BRINSON	Labour		356
Leslie DALTON	Green		222
Michael John THOMPSON*	Liberal Democrats	E	988

Langney Ward	Electorate:	7,141	Turnout:	34.14
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Candidate:	Party:	E if elected	Votes
Christine May QUARRINGTON	Green		137
Steven Lawrence SCOTT	Labour		164
Irene SIMS*	Liberal Democrats	E	1210
Thomas John WALTERS	Conservative		921

Meads Ward	Electorate:	7,600	Turnout:	49.58
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Candidate:	Party:	E if elected	Votes
Kate ARNOLD	Green		271
Dennis Leslie SCARD	Labour		221
Barry Edward TAYLOR*	Conservative	E	2672
Steven Michael WALLIS	Liberal Democrats		589

Old Town Ward 2 Seats	Electorate:	7,862	Turnout:	54.92
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Candidate:	Party:	E if elected	Votes
Catharine Rose BIRCHWOOD	Green		355
Patricia Ann HABETS	Liberal Democrats		1739
Simon David HERBERT	Conservative	E	1926
Jocelyn McCARTHY	Green		289
Jonathan Stephen PETTIGREW	Labour		155

Robert David ROSSETTER	Labour		132
Maurice SKILTON*	Liberal Democrats	E	1854
John Ross STANBURY	Conservative		1816

Ratton Ward	Electorate:	7,588	Turnout:	44.71

Candidate:	Party:	E if elected	Votes
Peter Alastair DURRANT	Liberal Democrats		702
Martin John FALKNER	Labour		233
Barbara May Verene GOODALL*	Conservative	E	2227
Kevin Leslie MOORE	Green		225

St Anthony's Ward	Electorate:	7,985	Turnout:	38.37

Candidate:	Party:	E if elected	Votes
Jon Paul HARRIS*	Liberal Democrats	E	1441
Judith Rosemary KIM-SYMES	Conservative		1200
Hugh James NORRIS	Green		242

Nora Ann RING	Labour		176
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Sovereign Ward	Electorate:	6,757	Turnout:	38.06
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Candidate:	Party:	E if elected	Votes
Nancy Jane DALTON	Green		229
Margaret Elizabeth SALSBURY	Liberal Democrats		806
Christopher Robin John WILLIAMS*	Conservative	E	1517

Upperton Ward	Electorate:	7,385	Turnout:	40.11
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Candidate:	Party:	E if elected	Votes
Robert MacLeod LACEY*	Conservative	E	1754
Finbar O'SHEA	Green		255
Margaret Elizabeth PETTIGREW	Labour		212
Patrick Joseph RODOHAN	Liberal Democrats		724

Old Council: 13 Liberal Democrats and 13 Conservative (and one seat vacant)

New Council: 14 Conservative and 13 Liberal Democrats

The previous Borough Council elections were held on 1 May 2003 for one seat in each ward (town-wide turnout was 33.6%).

Town-wide turnout for this election was 40.97%

Appendix 2

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS

SOUTH EAST REGION – EASTBOURNE BOROUGH COUNCIL AREA

RESULTS OF ELECTIONS HELD THURSDAY 10 JUNE 2004

Name of registered party/individual candidate:	Number of votes given for the registered party/individual candidate:	% share of the vote (to 2 decimal places)
British National Party	707	2.63
Christian Peoples Alliance	139	0.52
Conservatives – Putting Britain First	9,804	36.53
English Democrats Party	410	1.53
Green Party	1,916	7.14
Labour Party Candidates	2,491	9.28
Liberal Democrats	4,924	18.35
Peace Party – Non-violence, Justice, Environment	174	0.65
ProLife	83	0.31
Respect – The Unity Coalition (George Galloway)	106	0.39

Senior Citizens Party		854	3.18
UK Independence Party		5,179	19.30
Philip Rhodes		54	0.20
	Total number of counted votes:	26,841	

Total Rejected: 186

(Note: The total electorate in the Borough of Eastbourne for this election was 66,174 and the percentage turnout was 40.83%).

The following persons were elected to the European Parliament for the South East Region:-

Daniel John Hannan	Conservatives – Putting Britain First
Nigel Paul Farage	UK Independence Party
Niranjan Joseph Aditya Deva	Conservatives – Putting Britain First
Christopher Murray Paul Huhne	Liberal Democrats
Peter William Skinner	Labour
James Edmund Moncrieff Elles	Conservatives – Putting Britain First
Ashley Mote	UK Independence Party
Richard James Ashworth	Conservatives – Putting Britain First
Caroline Patricia Lucas	Green Party
Baroness Emma Harriet Nicholson	Liberal Democrats

