

**Body:** COUNCIL

**Date:** 17 MAY 2006

**Subject:** BOROUGH COUNCIL ELECTIONS HELD ON 4 MAY 2006

**Report of:** CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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**Ward(s):** All

**Purpose:** To inform the Council of the results of the elections held on 4 May 2006 and related statistical information.

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**Recommendation:** To note the report.

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## **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 This report deals with the elections held on Thursday 4 May 2006. Details of the results and of the candidates elected are given together with other related information.
- 1.2 These elections were held for one third of the Council seats. One in each of the 9 wards.
- 1.3 A total of 36 candidates stood for election representing 4 political parties (Conservative, Green, Labour and Liberal Democrats. One candidate for each of the parties stood for election in each ward.

## **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:-

<b>Ward:</b>	<b>Councillor's full name:</b>	<b>*Term of office until:</b>
<b>Devonshire</b>	Steven <b>WALLIS</b>	2010
<b>Hampden Park</b>	Mary Anne <b>POOLEY</b>	2010
<b>Langney</b>	Troy Aiden <b>TESTER</b>	2010
<b>Meads</b>	David Guy <b>STEVENS</b>	2010
<b>Old Town</b>	Anne Frances <b>ANGEL</b>	2010
<b>Ratton</b>	Colin <b>BELSEY</b>	2010
<b>St Anthony's</b>	David Owen <b>TUTT</b>	2010
<b>Sovereign</b>	Patrick John <b>BOWKER</b>	2010
<b>Upperton</b>	Graham Harvey <b>MARSDEN</b>	2010

**\*Note regarding term of office.** The term of office will expire on the 4<sup>th</sup> day after the ordinary day of election (i.e. the first Thursday in May) in the year given above for the councillor. Although the Council has made application to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister for a change in the Council's electoral arrangements to provide for whole Council elections commencing in 2007, a formal decision is awaited. It is anticipated that, if granted, the necessary Statutory Instrument giving effect to this change will be made later this year. The change will mean that all Councillors, irrespective of their term of office, will retire in May 2007. Elections will then be held for all 27 of the Council seats on 3 May 2007.

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

Conservatives	46.49%
Green	7.87%
Labour	5.10%
Liberal Democrats	40.54%

(Figures rounded to 2 decimal places)

### **3.0 Electoral Turnout Figures**

3.1 The total local electorate was 67,854. Overall, the electoral turnout was 40.70%. Turnout by ward is shown in the appendix to this report. This ranged from 32.3% in Langney to 50.47% in Old Town.

#### 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.

#### 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 fallen by a little over 300. Postal voters now comprise just over 19% of the total electorate. Of all the votes counted 33.2% were received from postal voters.

5.2 The following table shows trends in postal voting in local elections since 2000:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Sent out</b>	<b>Returned</b>	<b>% return</b>
2002	3,404	2,368	69.5
2003	6,335	4,271	67.4
2004	10,178	7,507	73.7
	14,546	11,872	81.6
2005*	13,336	10,733	80.5
2006	12,999	9,168	70.5

\* 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:**

<b>Rejection reason:</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005*</b>	<b>2006</b>
Incomplete declaration of identity:	32	39	127	160 155	192
Without declaration of identity:	17	23	44	17 14	20
Without ballot paper:	1	16	125	53 133	16
<b>Total number rejected:</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>230</b> <b>302</b>	<b>228</b>

\* The top figure given for 2005 is for the Parliamentary election and the bottom figure for the County elections.

5.4 The total number of replacement postal voting ballot papers issued was 18. These were provided to people who had either not received their papers or had lost them. 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 114 at the time of writing (10 May).

5.5 A total of 53 proxy votes were granted. This compared with 171 in 2005, 123 in 2004, 87 in 2003, 204 in 2002 and 163 in 2000.

## **6.0 Polling Stations**

6.1 32 polling stations were opened between the hours of 7.00 a.m. and 10.00 p.m. on the 4 May at 29 different venues. A total of 110 people were employed for the day to staff the stations.

## **7.0 Counting Arrangements**

7.1 The count took place at Town Hall. 81 counting staff plus a further 21 were engaged for the purposes of counting the votes. The count commenced at 10.00 p.m. on the 4 May. Other Council staff assisted, including Local Democracy staff, Town Hall reception and support staff, Press Office, IT staff and the members of the Council's Corporate Management Team.

7.2 The initial verification stages were completed between 10.50pm (Upperton) and 11.30pm (Old Town). 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 a few minutes after midnight (Meads) and the last at 12.40am (Old Town).

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 8 June 2006. 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**

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**Background Papers:** None.

**RESULTS OF ELECTIONS HELD THURSDAY 4 MAY 2006**

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

**Devonshire Ward**      *Electorate: 7464    Turnout: 35.42%*

<i>Candidate:</i>	<i>Party:</i>	<b>E</b> if elected	<i>Votes</i>
Richard Huntley <b>GOUDE</b>	Labour		184
Brian <b>JONES</b>	Conservative		749
Zoe Victoria <b>VONDERDELL</b>	Green		201
Steven <b>WALLIS</b>	Liberal Democrats	<b>E</b>	1491

**Hampden Park Ward**      *Electorate: 6963    Turnout: 33.51%*

<i>Candidate:</i>	<i>Party:</i>	<b>E</b> if elected	<i>Votes</i>
Edward <b>ABELLA</b>	Conservative		632
David Charles <b>BRINSON</b>	Labour		251
Leslie <b>DALTON</b>	Green		209
Mary Anne <b>POOLEY*</b>	Liberal Democrats	<b>E</b>	1230

**Langney Ward**      *Electorate: 7239    Turnout: 32.30%*

<i>Candidate:</i>	<i>Party:</i>	<b>E</b> if elected	<i>Votes</i>
Colin Charles <b>AKERS</b>	Labour		147
Christine May <b>QUARRINGTON</b>	Green		161
Troy Aiden <b>TESTER</b>	Liberal Democrats	<b>E</b>	1209
Stephanie Louise <b>WALTERS</b>	Conservative		809

**Meads Ward**      *Electorate: 7431    Turnout: 49.70%*

<i>Candidate:</i>	<i>Party:</i>	<b>E</b> if elected	<i>Votes</i>
Kate <b>ARNOLD</b>	Green		306
John Brendan <b>CREAVEN</b>	Liberal Democrats		756
Dennis Leslie <b>SCARD</b>	Labour		173
David Guy <b>STEVENS*</b>	Conservative	<b>E</b>	2440

<b>Old Town Ward</b>	<i>Electorate:</i> 7880	<i>Turnout:</i> 50.47%
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<i>Candidate:</i>	<i>Party:</i>	<i>E if elected</i>	<i>Votes</i>
Anne Frances <b>ANGEL</b>	Conservative	<b>E</b>	1843
Clive Daniel <b>GROSS</b>	Green		416
Helen <b>SEDGEWICK</b>	Labour		109
Maurice <b>SKILTON*</b>	Liberal Democrats		1590

<b>Ratton Ward</b>	<i>Electorate:</i> 7567	<i>Turnout:</i> 46.56%
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<i>Candidate:</i>	<i>Party:</i>	<i>E if elected</i>	<i>Votes</i>
Colin <b>BELSEY*</b>	Conservative	<b>E</b>	2091
Kevin Leslie <b>MOORE</b>	Green		225
Nora Ann <b>RING</b>	Labour		160
Brian Leslie <b>STAKER</b>	Liberal Democrats		1035

<b>St Anthony's Ward</b>	<i>Electorate:</i> 8055	<i>Turnout:</i> 39.78%
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<i>Candidate:</i>	<i>Party:</i>	<i>E if elected</i>	<i>Votes</i>
Tracy Joan <b>MOLES</b>	Conservative		962
Hugh James Patrick <b>NORRIS</b>	Green		204
David Owen <b>TUTT*</b>	Liberal Democrats	<b>E</b>	1913
Sharon Ann <b>WENTWORTH</b>	Labour		116

<b>Sovereign Ward</b>	<i>Electorate:</i> 7804	<i>Turnout:</i> 36.16%
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<i>Candidate:</i>	<i>Party:</i>	<i>E if elected</i>	<i>Votes</i>
Patrick John <b>BOWKER*</b>	Conservative	<b>E</b>	1597
Jocelyn <b>McCARTHY</b>	Green		181
David <b>MIERES</b>	Labour		125
Margaret Elizabeth <b>SALSBURY</b>	Liberal Democrats		914

<b>Upperton Ward</b>	<i>Electorate:</i> 7451	<i>Turnout:</i> 41.34%
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<i>Candidate:</i>	<i>Party:</i>	<i>E if elected</i>	<i>Votes</i>
Catharine Rose <b>BIRCHWOOD</b>	Green		261
Elizabeth Ann <b>GOUDE</b>	Labour		138
Graham Harvey <b>MARSDEN*</b>	Conservative	<b>E</b>	1661
Patrick Joseph <b>RODOHAN</b>	Liberal Democrats		1011

Overall town-wide turnout was 40.70%

<p><i>Conservatives retain control of the Council and gain one seat from the Liberal Democrats.</i></p> <p><i>Old Council: 14 Conservative and 13 Liberal Democrats</i>  <i>New Council: 15 Conservative and 12 Liberal Democrats</i></p>
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