

**Body:** Council

**Date:** 25 May 2011

**Subject:** Borough Council Elections and Referendum held on 5 May 2011

**Report of:** Chief Executive and Returning Officer

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**Ward(s):** All

**Purpose:** To inform the Council of the results of the elections and referendum held on 5 May 2011 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 and referendum held on Thursday 5 May 2011. 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. In addition a national referendum was held in respect of a proposed change to the voting system for parliamentary elections. Voters were asked to say yes or no to the question:

*At present, the UK uses the 'first past the post' system to elect MPs to the House of Commons. Should the 'alternative vote' system be used instead?*

1.3 A total of 94 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. In addition there was an independent candidate in Devonshire 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>Full name of Councillor:</b>
<b>Devonshire</b>	Margaret Elizabeth <b>BANNISTER</b> , Neil David Aloysius <b>STANLEY</b> , Steve <b>WALLIS</b>
<b>Hampden Park</b>	Pat <b>HEARN</b> , Jim <b>MURRAY</b> , Mike <b>THOMPSON</b>
<b>Langney</b>	Harun <b>MIAH</b> , Alan <b>SHUTTLEWORTH</b> , Troy <b>TESTER</b>
<b>Meads</b>	David Walter <b>ELKIN</b> , Nigel Royston <b>GOODYEAR</b> , Barry Edward <b>TAYLOR</b>
<b>Old Town</b>	Janet <b>COLES</b> , Carolyn <b>HEAPS</b> , John <b>UNGAR</b>
<b>Ratton</b>	Colin Sidney <b>BELSEY</b> , Sandie <b>HOWLETT</b> , Colin <b>MURDOCH</b>
<b>St Anthony's</b>	Jon Paul <b>HARRIS</b> , Gillian <b>MATTOCK</b> , David Owen <b>TUTT</b>
<b>Sovereign</b>	Philip <b>EDE</b> , Gordon <b>JENKINS</b> , Patrick Hugh <b>WARNER</b>
<b>Upperton</b>	Alun <b>COOKE</b> , Tom <b>LIDDIARD</b> , Annabelle Valerie <b>WEST</b>

**Term of office.** The term of office for all of the above named Councillors 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 2015.

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

Conservatives	41.59%
Green	5.15%
Labour	10.22%
Liberal Democrats	42.39%
UKIP	0.46%
Independent	0.18%

*(Note: Figures rounded to 2 decimal places)*

2.4 The local result of the 'AV' referendum was as follows:

**Yes: 9,565 (30.38%)**

**No: 21,920 (69.62%)**

Rejected (spoilt): 131

(Turnout: 44.63% Referendum electorate:70,849 Valid votes cast:  
31,617)

Nationally the result was:

**Yes: 6,152,607 (32.10%)**

**No: 13,013,123 (67.90%)**

### **3.0 Electoral Turnout Figures**

3.1 The electorate for the borough council election was 73,094. Overall, the electoral turnout was 44.17%. Turnout by ward is shown in the appendix to this report. This ranged from 34.39% in Langney to 53.42% in Old Town. Previous year's turnout figures (by ward) going back to 2002 are available on request.

The AV referendum turnout figures are given above in 2.4. above.

### **4.0 Poll Cards**

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 on 28 March, 4 weeks prior to election day.

### **5.0 Absent Voting**

5.1 The big increase in the numbers of people having postal votes has been maintained. The total number of postal votes sent out for these elections was 14,006. Postal voters comprised nearly a fifth (19%) of the electorate and of all the votes received nearly a third (32%) were received from postal voters.

5.2 All postal voters' signatures and dates of birth are now held on computer from information provided when application is made. The voting procedure 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 including those handed in at polling stations in time for the count.

5.3 The closing date for postal vote applications was 5pm Thursday 14 April. By late that evening we had completed the transfer of encrypted data to the printers. Our postal votes and ballot papers were printed and delivered to Royal Mail on the 19 April for despatch to voters. Daily opening sessions commenced on 26 April.

5.4 The following table shows trends in postal voting in local elections since 2004:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Sent out</b>	<b>Returned</b>	<b>% return</b>
2004	10,178	7,507	73.7
2005	13,336	10,733	80.5
*2005	14,546	11,872	81.62
2006	12,999	9,168	70.5
<b>2007</b>	<b>12,202</b>	<b>10,013</b>	<b>82.7</b>
2009	12,792	9,199	71.91
*2010	15,110	13,262	87.77
<b>2011</b>	<b>14,006</b>	<b>10,343</b>	<b>73.85</b>

\* relate to the parliamentary constituency, all other figures relate to borough area only.

#### 5.5 **Rejected Postal Votes:**

<b>Rejection reason:</b>	<b>2009</b> (County and Euro)	<b>2010</b> (Parl)	<b>2011</b> (Borough and Ref)	
			<b>Boro</b>	<b>Ref</b>
Without ballot paper:	42	22	84	312
Signature absent or did not match	73	189	291	284
Date of birth not given or incorrect	34	103	81	80
Missing signature and date of birth	53	62	70	65
No valid postal voters' statement	16	25	43	40
<b>Total number rejected:</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>401</b>	<b>569</b>	<b>781</b>

5.6 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 16 in total) or had spoilt them and needed replacements 2 in total). Proof of identity with photograph is generally required in these cases. The number of postal votes received after the close of poll and too late to be counted was 41 (as at midday Friday 13 May).

5.7 A total of 97 (local election) and 111 (referendum) proxy votes were granted. This compared with 95 in the 2009 combined European and county elections and 324 in the 2010 parliamentary election. This included one emergency proxy application which was allowed.

#### 6.0 **Polling Stations**

6.1 36 polling stations were opened between the hours of 7.00 a.m. and 10.00 p.m. on the 5 May at 31 different venues. A total of 127 people were employed for the day to staff the stations.

- 6.2 Four additional stations were operated on this occasion in order to comply with a direction from the Chief Counting Officer of the Electoral Commission which stipulated that no station should cater for more than 1,500 voters. This was despite the council having made satisfactory arrangements in previous years for catering for larger electorates.
- 6.3 A new polling station for voters in Sovereign ward polling district SVC was brought into use this year at the Sovereign Harbour Yacht Club. In St Anthony's Ward, Archery Youth Centre was used as the polling venue for voters in the SAC polling district as a consequence of the destruction of St Andrew's Church Hall by fire. Four other venues became 'double' stations in order to comply with the Electoral Commission directive. These were Shinewater Community Centre (Langney Ward district LGB), Greenfield Methodist Church Hall (Old Town district OTA), Roselands School (St Anthony's Ward districts SAA and SAB) and Langney Community Centre (St Anthony's Ward district SAD).

## **7.0 Counting Arrangements**

- 7.1 The local election count took place in the Devonshire Park Halls (adjacent to the Winter Gardens). 108 counting staff were engaged for the purposes of counting the votes. The count commenced at 10.00 p.m. on the 5 May. Other Council staff assisted in the preparations and the count itself, including staff from Strategy and Democracy, Eastbourne Theatres, Town Hall facilities and support staff, press office, IT and Steria and the members of the Council's Corporate Management Team.
- 7.2 The initial verification stages (for both the local ballots and the referendum ballots) were completed by about 1am. 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 referendum ballots were secured and put away until the Friday afternoon count. The first local result was declared at 3am (Hampden Park Ward) and the last at 5am (Meads Ward).
- 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.
- 7.4 In accordance with a national direction, the referendum count commenced at 4pm on Friday 6 May. The count was completed by about 6.30pm, however, the result was not declared until about 7pm due to the need to seek certification from the Regional Counting officer at Southampton.

## **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. This contract will also cover future elections up to 2012, after which the contract is due to be retendered.

## **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 Thursday 9 June 2011. 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 so 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 with such enthusiasm and professionalism. Party agents commented to me that they wanted to give credit where it was due, not only on how well organised the whole process was, but also that staff were good humoured, helpful and always willing to chat. The confidence they gave them helped the count itself to progress smoothly and with a great deal of consensus. This was my second election as Returning Officer and I am delighted the involvement of all concerned ensured that all went well.

**Robert Cottrill**  
**Chief Executive and Returning Officer**

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### **Background Papers:**

Previous years' "Returning Officer's" reports can be found at:

2010: <http://www.eastbourne.gov.uk/council/meetings/council/?categoryesctl2820332=8268>

2009: <http://www.eastbourne.gov.uk/council/meetings/council/?categoryesctl2820332=8027>

2007: <http://www.eastbourne.gov.uk/council/meetings/council/?category=635>

2006: <http://www.eastbourne.gov.uk/council/meetings/council/?category=438>

2005: <http://www.eastbourne.gov.uk/council/meetings/council/?category=198>

## RESULTS OF ELECTIONS HELD THURSDAY 5 MAY 2011

**Devonshire Ward**      Electorate: 8,473      %Turnout: 34.51

<i>Candidate:</i>	<i>Party:</i>	<i>E if elected</i>	<i>Votes</i>
Margaret Elizabeth <b>BANNISTER</b>	Liberal Democrat	<b>E</b>	1529
Steven <b>CLARK</b>	Labour		412
Sandra Margaret <b>ELKIN</b>	Conservative		666
Keith Vernon <b>GELL</b>	Independent		160
Richard Huntley <b>GOUDE</b>	Labour		345
Bill <b>PALETHORPE</b>	Green		256
Margaret Louise <b>PARKER</b>	Conservative		672
Grant Tythan <b>SANDERS</b>	Conservative		580
Neil David Aloysius <b>STANLEY</b>	Liberal Democrat	<b>E</b>	1304
Steve <b>WALLIS</b>	Liberal Democrat	<b>E</b>	1273
Jean <b>WINSTONE</b>	Labour		337
Linda Jane <b>WINTLE</b>	Green		295

**Hampden Park Ward**      Electorate: 7,181      %Turnout: 40.12

<i>Candidate:</i>	<i>Party:</i>	<i>E if elected</i>	<i>Votes</i>
Caroline Julie Porte <b>ANSELL</b>	Conservative		692
Dave <b>BRINSON</b>	Labour		470
Sam <b>CHAPMAN</b>	Conservative		643
Leslie <b>DALTON</b>	Green		255
Kate <b>GLOVER</b>	Conservative		672
Pat <b>HEARN</b>	Liberal Democrat	<b>E</b>	1394
Ivor Neil <b>HUETING</b>	Green		220
Jake <b>LAMBERT</b>	Labour		418
Jim <b>MURRAY</b>	Liberal Democrat	<b>E</b>	1266
Rob <b>SIER</b>	Green		166
Gerry <b>STONESTREET</b>	Labour		344
Mike <b>THOMPSON</b>	Liberal Democrat	<b>E</b>	1225

**Langney Ward**      Electorate: 7,900      %Turnout: 34.39

<i>Candidate:</i>	<i>Party:</i>	<i>E if elected</i>	<i>Votes</i>
Lee <b>COMFORT</b>	Labour		278
Tony Graham <b>FREEBODY</b>	Conservative		726
John William <b>GLOVER</b>	Conservative		720
Jan <b>JENKINS</b>	Conservative		705
Sean <b>MEEKINGS</b>	Labour		258
Harun <b>MIAH</b>	Liberal Democrat	<b>E</b>	1328
Roy William <b>NOBLE</b>	Labour		218
Christine <b>QUARRINGTON</b>	Green		270
Alan <b>SHUTTLEWORTH</b>	Liberal Democrat	<b>E</b>	1434
Troy <b>TESTER</b>	Liberal Democrat	<b>E</b>	1282

**Meads Ward**

Electorate: 7,977 %Turnout: 51.42

<i>Candidate:</i>	<i>Party:</i>	<i>E if elected</i>	<i>Votes</i>
Tom <b>BANNER</b>	Liberal Democrat		797
Harry Conyers <b>BOYS</b>	Green		414
Ian Peter Neville <b>CAMERON</b>	UK Independence Party		404
Jean <b>COUTURE</b>	Labour		411
David Walter <b>ELKIN</b>	Conservative	<b>E</b>	2232
Jean <b>FISHER</b>	Liberal Democrat		766
Dorothy Hilda <b>FORSYTH</b>	Green		361
Nigel Royston <b>GOODYEAR</b>	Conservative	<b>E</b>	2126
Manek <b>JAFFER</b>	Labour		349
Dennis Leslie <b>SCARD</b>	Labour		373
Barry Edward <b>TAYLOR</b>	Conservative	<b>E</b>	2239
Margaret Diane <b>TICEHURST</b>	Liberal Democrat		734

**Old Town Ward**

Electorate: 8,355 %Turnout: 53.42

<i>Candidate:</i>	<i>Party:</i>	<i>E if elected</i>	<i>Votes</i>
Anne Frances <b>ANGEL</b>	Conservative		1726
Janet <b>COLES</b>	Liberal Democrat	<b>E</b>	1934
Vivienne <b>DE HAVILLAND-GERAGHTY</b>	Conservative		1350
Carolyn <b>HEAPS</b>	Liberal Democrat	<b>E</b>	2432
Helen <b>KEY</b>	Labour		418
Pippa <b>OLIPHANT</b>	Green		631
Danielle Emma <b>PERRY</b>	Conservative		1193
Paul <b>RICHARDS</b>	Labour		374
Sarah <b>RICHARDS</b>	Labour		340
John <b>UNGAR</b>	Liberal Democrat	<b>E</b>	1738

**Ratton Ward**

Electorate: 7,789 %Turnout: 53.13

<i>Candidate:</i>	<i>Party:</i>	<i>E if elected</i>	<i>Votes</i>
Linda <b>BECKMANN</b>	Liberal Democrat		999
Colin Sidney <b>BELSEY</b>	Conservative	<b>E</b>	2357
Nancy Jane <b>DALTON</b>	Green		523
Christopher <b>HALL</b>	Labour		471
Roger <b>HOWARTH</b>	Liberal Democrat		984
Sandie <b>HOWLETT</b>	Conservative	<b>E</b>	2076
Colin <b>MURDOCH</b>	Conservative	<b>E</b>	1991
James <b>NOLAN</b>	Labour		394
Barbara <b>RODOHAN</b>	Liberal Democrat		908
Helen <b>SEDGWICK</b>	Labour		360



**St Anthony's Ward**      *Electorate: 8,315    %Turnout: 43.80*

<i>Candidate:</i>	<i>Party:</i>	<i>E if elected</i>	<i>Votes</i>
Nick <b>ANSELL</b>	Conservative		846
Robert Havard <b>BORLAND</b>	Conservative		752
Ian Derek <b>CULSHAW</b>	Labour		332
Jackie <b>FERGUSON</b>	Labour		383
Jon Paul <b>HARRIS</b>	Liberal Democrat	<b>E</b>	1929
Simon David <b>HERBERT</b>	Conservative		759
Gill <b>MATTOCK</b>	Liberal Democrat	<b>E</b>	1913
Hugh James Patrick <b>NORRIS</b>	Green		287
David Michael <b>SALMON</b>	Labour		348
David Owen <b>TUTT</b>	Liberal Democrat	<b>E</b>	2169

**Sovereign Ward**      *Electorate: 8,985    %Turnout: 40.63*

<i>Candidate:</i>	<i>Party:</i>	<i>E if elected</i>	<i>Votes</i>
Philip <b>EDE</b>	Conservative	<b>E</b>	1904
Stephen <b>HOLT</b>	Liberal Democrat		1169
Gordon <b>JENKINS</b>	Conservative	<b>E</b>	1745
Grace Emmie <b>LOSEBY</b>	Liberal Democrat		1106
Jocelyn <b>MCCARTHY</b>	Green		488
Margaret Elizabeth <b>SALSBURY</b>	Liberal Democrat		1193
Patrick Hugh Daniel <b>WARNER</b>	Conservative	<b>E</b>	1767
Sharon Ann <b>WENTWORTH</b>	Labour		359

**Upperton Ward**      *Electorate: 8,119    %Turnout: 46.41*

<i>Candidate:</i>	<i>Party:</i>	<i>E if elected</i>	<i>Votes</i>
Margaret <b>BARR</b>	Labour		313
Alun <b>COOKE</b>	Conservative	<b>E</b>	1694
Lucette <b>DAVIES</b>	Labour		305
Elizabeth Ann <b>GOUDE</b>	Labour		304
Alex <b>HOUGH</b>	Liberal Democrat		1394
Hilary <b>LEWIS</b>	Liberal Democrat		1324
Tom <b>LIDDIARD</b>	Conservative	<b>E</b>	1731
Pat <b>RODOHAN</b>	Liberal Democrat		1378
Kenneth David <b>WEBB</b>	Green		427
Annabelle Valerie <b>WEST</b>	Conservative	<b>E</b>	1707

**Town-wide turnout: 44.17%. (Electorate: 73,094. Voted: 32,286)**

The last Borough Council elections were held on 3 May 2007 when the town-wide turnout was 42.26 %.