

**Report to:** Full Council

**Date:** 20 May 2019

**Title:** District Council Elections held on 2 May 2019

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

**Ward(s):** All

**Purpose of report:** To inform the Council of the results of the elections held on 2 May 2019 and related information.

**Officer recommendation(s):** To note the report.

**Reasons for recommendations:** To enable the Council to proceed with decision-making in the relevant bodies.

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## **1 Introduction**

- 1.1 This report sets out details of the Lewes District Council elections held on Thursday 2 May 2019.
- 1.2 These elections were for all 41 of the council seats in the district's 21 wards.
- 1.3 A total of 152 candidates stood for election to the district council representing 5 political parties (Conservative, Green, Labour, Liberal Democrats and UKIP) together with a number of independent candidates.

## **2 Results**

- 2.1 A copy of the full election results for the 21 Lewes district wards is attached at **Appendix 1**.

## **3 Electoral turnout figures**

3.1 The overall electorate turnout was 43.72%. A summary of Councillors elected and turnout by ward is shown in the **Appendix 2** to this report.

#### **4 Absent voting**

4.1 13,292 postal votes were issued out of a total electorate of 76,224.

4.3 A total of 264 proxy votes were granted. These included 11 emergency proxy applications.

#### **5 Polling stations and counting arrangements**

5.1 63 polling stations were opened between the hours of 7.00 am and 10.00 pm on the 2 May.

5.2 The district council count commenced at 9.00am on Friday 3 May at the American Express (AMEX) football stadium in Falmer. 156 counting staff, including supervisors, were employed.

#### **6 Joint purchasing arrangements**

6.1 Lewes 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.

#### **7 De-briefing**

7.1 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 in June.

#### **8 Conclusion**

8.1 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 long hours with such enthusiasm and professionalism.

#### **9. Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Full District Results

Appendix 2 – Summary of results and turnout.

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