

## **Local Elections and LGA Political Balance 2012-2013**

### **Purpose of report**

For decision.

### **Summary**

Local elections in England took place on 3 May. The LGC Elections Centre at the University of Plymouth has provided the definitive figures for the LGA's proportionality for 2012-2013. This reports sets out the revised proportionality and its implications for the distribution of seats amongst the political groups on the LGA's governance structures.

### **Recommendation**

That the Executive notes the report.

### **Action**

Political Groups to agree the allocation of places across all LGA structures.

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## **Local elections and LGA Political Balance 2012-2013**

### **Background**

1. The 2012 local elections were held on Thursday, 3 May in 128 English Council. Mayoral elections took place in Salford and Liverpool and new mayoral referenda were held in 10 cities, Birmingham, Bradford, Bristol, Coventry, Leeds, Manchester, Newcastle, Nottingham, Sheffield and Wakefield.
2. 21 out of the 22 Welsh Unitaries held elections on an all out basis. (Anglesey's election has been postponed until May 2013).
3. The Conservatives lost ground in this year's elections, losing control of 13 councils and nearly 390 councillors. However, they regained Winchester from No Overall Control.
4. Labour made a net gain of 795 councillors across England and Wales, and took control of over 30 councils. In England the party took back Carlisle, Burnley and Chorley in the north; Plymouth, Harlow and Southampton in the south and Birmingham, Derby and Dudley in the Midlands. In Wales, it had its best election in over fifteen years, retaking authorities such as Caerphilly, Swansea and Cardiff. Labour also won the first directly-elected Mayoral elections in Liverpool and Salford.
5. The Liberal Democrats retained control of all their majority controlled councils making gains in Portsmouth, Eastleigh and South Lakeland. They lost the leadership of five councils across England and Wales.
6. Overall the Independent Group lost 213 seats across England and Wales but gained 52. In Wales, Independent councillors retained the leadership of Powys and Pembrokeshire and retain significant influence on a number of councils which moved to No Overall Control.

### **LGA proportionality**

7. The final figures for 2012-2013, based on data provided by the University of Plymouth are set out below along with the 2011/12 figures. The figures include the effect of the 50 per cent weighting for Welsh authorities, and the respective weightings for two tier areas.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Conservative</b>	<b>Labour</b>	<b>Lib Dem</b>	<b>Ind / other</b>
<b>2012/13</b>	<b>43.2</b>	<b>35.8</b>	<b>14.4</b>	<b>6.7</b>
2011/12	45.4	31.6	16	7

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8. Under the LGA Constitution, the largest party appoints the chairman of the Association. The chairman of the Association also chairs the LGA Leadership Board, the LGA Executive and the Councillors' Forum. The remaining Office Holders are appointed according to proportionality. The political balance on each of the Association's governance structures is calculated with reference to proportionally and/or by agreement between group leaders.

**LGA Leadership Board**

9. The LGA Leadership Board is currently made up of 11 members and is balanced proportionally. The Board comprises the chairman plus 4 additional Conservatives, 3 Labour, 2 Liberal Democrat and 1 Independent. To most accurately reflect the new political balance, as set out in **Table 1**, it is recommended that this figure is increased to 12 for 2012/2013.

**Chairs**

10. Currently there are 15 chairs covering the nine boards, two panels, one company board (LG Regulation) and the urban, rural and fire commissions. The Chairs of the Improvement, Workforce and European & International Boards also chair the company boards of the IDeA, LGE and LGIB respectively. From September 2012 the LACORS Company Board will be chaired by the Chair of the Safer & Stronger Communities Board. This company board will not be included in the figures for chairs.
11. Should the Board decide to establish a Finance Panel it will be included in calculations relating to Chairs, Boards and the LGA Executive, replacing the current Audit & Scrutiny Panel.
12. As a registered charity whose trustees elect their own chair, the Leadership Centre is excluded from the calculations. The chair of Local Partnerships is excluded following changes to its governance arrangements in 2011.

**LGA Executive**

13. The LGA Executive currently comprises 32 members, made up of the Leadership Board (11), Chairs of Boards (9), regional representatives (10), the Chair of LACORS and one Liberal Democrat balancing member.
14. The chairs of the Resources Panel, CCN, DCN, SIGOMA, the Leadership Centre and Local Partnerships are entitled to attend in a non-voting capacity and are not included in the political balance of the Executive.

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**Boards**

15. Currently each of the 9 boards has a core membership of 14, including the chair. The Safer & Stronger Communities and Environment & Housing Boards each include one representative from the LACORS company board. The Safer & Stronger Communities board includes the chair of the Fire Services Management Committee. The European & International board includes one representative from each of the remaining boards except Community Wellbeing and Culture, Tourism and Sport, and three representatives from the European bodies.
16. Subject to the decision of the Leadership Board, the core membership of the 9 Boards will increase to 18 from September 2012.

**Panels**

17. Currently the Resources and Audit & Scrutiny Panels have a core membership of 9 members. Audit & Scrutiny includes a representative from the IDeA, LGE and LACORS boards.
18. Subject to the decision of the Leadership Board, the new Finance Panel will have a membership of 9.

**Commissions/Fire Services Management Committee**

19. The Fire Services Management Committee has a proportional membership of 15 drawn from authorities with responsibility for fire & rescue.
20. The LGA appoints only the chairs of the Urban and Rural Commissions. The remaining vice and deputy chairs are agreed by the Commission members.

**Conclusion**

21. Subject to LGA Leadership Board's endorsement, the political groups will negotiate the allocation of chairs and vice chairs across the LGA member structures set out in **Table 1**. **Table 2** shows the current allocation of chairs and vice chairs based on existing proportionality.

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**Table 1 – 2012/13 allocation for each structure**

<b>Structure</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Cons</b>	<b>Lab</b>	<b>Lib Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>LGA Leadership Board</b>	<b>2012/13</b>	<b>4.74</b>	<b>3.94</b>	<b>1.57</b>	<b>.73</b>	
	<b>Rounded</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>12</b>
	2011/12	5	3	2	1	11
<b>Chairs of boards/panels/ commissions</b>	<b>2012/13</b>	<b>6.04</b>	<b>5.01</b>	<b>2.01</b>	<b>.92</b>	
	<b>Rounded</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>14</b>
	2011/12	7	5	2	1	15
<b>LGA Executive (voting)</b>	<b>2012/13</b>	<b>13.37</b>	<b>11.10</b>	<b>4.44</b>	<b>2.07</b>	
	<b>Rounded</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>30*</b>
	2011/12	14	11	5	2	32
<b>Board members 18 Member Board</b>	<b>2012/13</b>	<b>7.77</b>	<b>6.44</b>	<b>2.59</b>	<b>1.20</b>	
	<b>Rounded</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>18</b>
	2011/12	6	5	2	1	14
<b>14 Member Board</b>	<b>2012/13</b>	<b>6.04</b>	<b>5.01</b>	<b>2.01</b>	<b>.92</b>	
	<b>Rounded</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>14</b>
	2011/12	6	5	2	1	14
<b>Panel members</b>	<b>2012/13</b>	<b>4.38</b>	<b>3.22</b>	<b>1.29</b>	<b>.59</b>	
	<b>Rounded</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>
	2011/12	4	3	1	1	9
<b>Fire Services Management Committee</b>	<b>2012/13</b>	<b>6.48</b>	<b>5.37</b>	<b>2.16</b>	<b>.99</b>	
	<b>Rounded</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>14*</b>
	2011/12	7	5	2	1	15

\* leaves one unallocated place for negotiation.

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**Table 2 - Current allocation of chairs and vice chairs (2011/2012)**

<b>Structure</b>	<b>Chairs</b>	<b>Vice Chairs</b>
<b>Boards</b>		
Children & Young People	Conservative	Labour
Community Wellbeing	Liberal Democrat	Conservative
Culture Tourism and Sport	Liberal Democrat	Labour
Environment & Housing	Conservative	Labour
Economy & Transport	Labour	Conservative
European & International	Labour	Liberal Democrat
Improvement	Conservative	Liberal Democrat
Safer & Stronger Communities	Labour	Conservative
Workforce	Labour	Liberal Democrat
<b>Panels</b>		
Audit & Scrutiny Panel	Labour	Liberal Democrat
Resources Panel	Conservative	Labour
<b>Company Boards</b>		
LGID	as Improvement Board	as Improvement Board
LGE	as Workforce Board	as Workforce Board
LGR	Conservative	Labour
<b>Commissions</b>		
Fire Commission	Conservative	Labour
Rural Commission	Conservative	N/A
Urban Commission	Independent	N/A