

## **LGA Proportionality for 2011-2012**

### **Purpose of report**

For decision.

### **Summary**

This report sets out the proposed timetable for confirming changes to LGA proportionality, and agreeing the allocation of seats and distribution of chairs and vice-chairs, following the 2011 local government elections on 5 May.

### **Recommendation**

That the LGA Leadership Board agrees the proposed process and timetable set out in paragraphs 3 to 9 of the report.

### **Action**

Officers and LGA Leadership Board to take forward the timetable as set out in the report.

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## **LGA Proportionality for 2011-2012**

### **Background**

1. The 2011 local government elections will take place on Thursday, 5 May in:
  - 1.1 36 Metropolitan Boroughs in England – all by thirds;
  - 1.2 51 Unitary authorities in England, 20 by thirds and 31 all-up;
  - 1.3 194 Second-tier districts in England – 67 by thirds and 127 all-up
2. Elections to the National Assembly for Wales will also take place on 5 May, although not Welsh local authorities. (Welsh authorities are included in the political balance calculations, but with a 50% weighting that reflects their corporate membership status).
3. This report summarises the process and timetable for confirming changes to LGA proportionality for 2011-2012, and for agreeing the allocation of seats and distribution of chairs and vice-chairs. The timetable for this, including key General Assembly dates, is **attached** at Appendix A to this report.

### **Process and timetable**

4. Both the local government elections and a referendum on voting reform will take place on 5 May. The referendum results will be counted first, on Friday 6 May, and it is likely that the local authority results will not be available until Monday, 9 May. Therefore, the LGA's estimated proportionality figures will not be available until Monday 9 May. The interim figures showing the effect of the changes in proportionality on the distribution of seats amongst the LGA's political groups will be e-mailed to Group Leaders and Heads of Group Offices as soon as they are available.
5. The definitive election results data, commissioned from the LGC Elections Centre at the University of Plymouth, should be available by 11 May. The University of Plymouth also prepare estimated LGA proportionality figures, which are checked against the LGA's own estimates. Any large variations will be shared with Group Leaders and Heads of Group Offices the same day. The final, definitive, political balance will be calculated by the LG Group analysis and research team, using the University of Plymouths data, by Friday 13 May at the latest.

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6. The Heads of Group Offices, Corporate Programme Director and Member Services Manager will meet on 11 May to discuss the estimated figures and again on 13 May when the final calculations are available, to discuss.
  - 6.1 the allocation of seats amongst the groups based on the current governance structures;
  - 6.2 the distribution of chair and vice-chair places.
7. Following this meeting, the Heads of Group Offices will brief their respective leading members. A report setting out the distribution of places and the distribution of chair and vice-chair places will be brought to LGA Leadership Board at its meeting on Wednesday, 18 May. In the event of any difference of opinion on the implications of the figures, a formal meeting of Group Leaders will be arranged for 2.00pm on 18 May, prior to the Leadership Board meeting at 3.00pm.
8. If the report is agreed, the political groups will need to report their nominations for LGA Office Holders to the Annual Meeting of the General Assembly on 28 June in Birmingham, agree the distribution of chairs and vice-chairs between them and use their respective methods to populate the seats allocated to them. This should be complete by early August to enable sufficient time for Member Services to confirm all appointments in writing and invite new members to the LGA Induction Day on Friday, 2 September in Local Government House.

**Financial implications**

9. There are no unbudgeted financial implications for the LGA.

## **General Assembly, Political Balance and Appointments to Member Structures**

<b>Wednesday 9 February</b>	Alert to Authorities giving preliminary notice of and timetable for the General Assembly Annual Meeting
<b>Wednesday 23 March</b>	Alert inviting Authorities to appoint their representatives to the General Assembly for 2011/12 and those attending the Annual Meeting. Also advises deadline for receipt of motions <b>6 May 2011</b>
<b>Tuesday, 5 April</b>	Proportionality timetable and process discussed by HGOs.
<b>Wednesday 13 April</b>	Proportionality report to LGA Leadership Board outlining process and timetable.
<b>Thursday 5 May</b>	Local Elections in England and Wales
<b>Friday 6 May</b>	5pm deadline for motions to be received from Authorities
<b>Monday 9 May</b>	Estimated political balance figures from the LG Group Analysis and Research team. Email to Group Leaders and HGOs.
<b>Wednesday 11 May</b>	Definitive elections data available from LG Elections Centre, University of Plymouth.  Meeting of HGOs and Corporate Programme Director to discuss the changed percentages and their implications for changes to the distribution of seats amongst the parties and the distribution of Chair and Vice-Chair places.
<b>Thursday 13 May</b>	Final political balance calculation available from the LG Group Analysis and Research team. HGOs brief Group Leaders
<b>Wednesday 18 May 2.00pm</b>	Additional meeting of Group Leaders in the event of any potential for disagreement amongst the Groups.
<b>Wednesday 18 May 3.00pm</b>	Report to LGA Leadership Board with formal proposals for places on boards and distribution of chair/vice-chair places

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<b>From 19 May to 6 August</b>	Political Groups to use their respective methods to populate the seats allocated to them – to take effect from 1 September 2011.
<b>Tuesday, 31 May</b>	Deadline for Authorities to inform the Association of General Assembly representatives for 2011/12.
<b>Monday 6 to Tuesday, 7 June</b>	Agenda and papers for the Annual Meeting despatched to Authorities.
<b>Tuesday 28 June</b>	Groups to report their nominations for LGA Office Holders to General Assembly Annual Meeting
<b>July to 5 August</b>	HGOs to inform Member Services of nominations to the following member structures:  LGA Leadership Board LG Group Executive Programme Boards Panels Fire Services Management Committee Urban and Rural Commissions (Office Holders only) Boards of: Local Government Improvement Local Government Employers Local Government Regulators Local Government Leadership Local Partnerships Employer Bodies
<b>From 5 August</b>	Member Services send letters of appointment to all members and invitations to induction on Friday, 2 September 2011.
<b>Thursday 1 September</b>	2011/2012 meeting cycle commences
<b>Friday 2 September</b>	LG Group Members' Briefing (new and/or continuing members)