

## **Local Elections and LGA Political Balance 2011-2012**

### **Purpose of report**

For decision.

### **Summary**

Local elections in England took place on 5 May. The LGC Elections Centre at the University of Plymouth has provided the definitive figures for the LG Group's proportionality for 2011-2012. This reports sets out the revised proportionality and its implications for the distribution of seats amongst the political groups, on the LG Group's governance structures

### **Recommendations**

That LGA Leadership Board endorses the proportionality figures for 2011/2012, as the basis for negotiating the allocation of chairs and vice chairs and populating all member structures.

### **Action**

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

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## **Local elections and LGA Political Balance 2011-2012**

### **Background**

1. The 2011 local elections were held at the same time as the referendum on the alternative vote. Of the 279 English councils affected, 126 districts and 30 unitaries held all out elections, with a further 67 districts, 20 unitaries and 36 metropolitan councils holding elections by thirds. Mayoral elections took place in four authorities. Local elections in Wales will take place in 2012 on an all out basis.
2. The number of Conservative councillors increased by 86 and they gained control of an additional 4 councils. In Northampton the Conservatives took 9 seats from the Liberal Democrats to take control of the council.
3. The Labour Party increased the number of Labour councillors by 857, taking control of Sheffield, Hull, York and Newcastle, along with Stoke-on-Trent, where the BNP lost all their remaining seats.
4. The Liberal Democrats lost control of 9 councils in total, In Stockport, they lost control, but remain the largest party on the council. They retained control in Eastleigh, increasing their majority by 3 seats, and increased their majority in Oadby and Wigston.
5. Independent councillors stood in most councils. In Boston, control moved from the Boston By-pass party to Conservative. In Mansfield and Middlesborough incumbent independent mayors Tony Eggington and Ray Mallon were both re-elected.

### **LGA proportionality**

6. The final figures for 2011-2012, based on data provided by the University of Plymouth are set out below along with the 2010/11 figures. The figures include the effect of the 50% 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>2011/12</b> | 45                  | 32            | 16             | 7                  |
| <b>2010/11</b> | 46                  | 27            | 20             | 7                  |

6. Under the LGA Constitution, the largest party appoints the chairman of the Association. The chairman of the Association also chairs the LGA Leadership Board and the LG Group Executive. The remaining Office Holders are

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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**

7. The LGA Leadership Board is normally made up of 11 members and is balanced proportionally. To most accurately reflect the new political balance, it is recommended that this figure is increased to 12 for 2011/2012. This comprises the chairman plus 4 additional Conservatives, 4 Labour, 2 Liberal Democrat and 1 Independent.

**Chairs**

8. There are 16 chairs in total covering the nine programme boards, two panels, two central body boards (LG Regulation and Local Partnerships) and the urban, rural and fire commissions. The chairs of the Improvement, Workforce and European & International Programme Boards also chair the company boards of the LGID, LGE and LGIB respectively. The Leadership Centre is excluded because as a registered charity, the Board of Trustees is responsible for electing its chair.

**LG Group Executive**

9. The LG Group Executive comprises 33 members - the twelve members of the LGA Leadership Board, chairs of the nine programme boards, the chairs of LACORS and Local Partnerships and one representative each from the regional groupings and Wales.

The chairs of the Resources Panel, and three Special Interest Groups (CCN, DCN and SIGOMA) and the chair of the Leadership Centre attend in a non-voting capacity and are not included in the political balance of the Group Executive.

10. In 2010/11 nominations by the regions meant that the LG Group Executive was not politically balanced. In 2011/12 it is recommended that balancing members are appointed to secure political proportionality if necessary.

**Programme Boards**

11. Each of the nine programme boards has a core membership of 14, including the chair. The Safer & Stronger Communities and Environment & Housing programme boards each include one representative from the LGR company board. The Safer & Stronger Communities programme board includes the chair of the Fire Services Management Committee. The European & International programme board includes one representative from each of the

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remaining programme boards except Community Wellbeing and Culture, Tourism and Sport, and three representatives from the European bodies.

**Panels**

11. The Resources and Audit & Scrutiny Panels each has a core membership of nine members. Audit & Scrutiny includes a representative from the LGID, LGE and LGR boards.

**Commissions/Fire Services Management Committee**

12. The Fire Services Management Committee has a proportional membership of fifteen drawn from authorities with responsibility for fire & rescue.
13. The LG Group appoints to chairs of the Urban and Rural Commissions only. The remaining vice and deputy chairs are agreed by the commission members.

**Table 1 – 2011/12 allocation for each structure**

| <b>Structure/Year</b>                           |                             | <b>Cons</b> | <b>Lab</b> | <b>Lib Dem</b> | <b>Ind</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|---|-----------------------------|-------------|------------|----------------|------------|--------------|
| <b>Balance 2011/12 %</b>                        |                             | <b>45</b>   | <b>32</b>  | <b>16</b>      | <b>7</b>   |              |
|   |                             |             |            |                |            |              |
| <b>LGA Leadership Board</b>                     | <b>2011/12</b>              | <b>5</b>    | <b>4</b>   | <b>2</b>       | <b>1</b>   | <b>12</b>    |
|   | 2010/11                     | 5           | 3          | 2              | 1          | 11           |
|   |                             |             |            |                |            |              |
| <b>Chairs of boards/panels/<br/>commissions</b> | <b>2011/12</b>              | <b>8</b>    | <b>5</b>   | <b>2</b>       | <b>1</b>   | <b>16</b>    |
|   | 2010/11                     | 8           | 4          | 3              | 1          | 16           |
|   |                             |             |            |                |            |              |
| <b>LG Group Executive (voting)</b>              | <b>2011/12</b>              | <b>15</b>   | <b>11</b>  | <b>5</b>       | <b>2</b>   | <b>33</b>    |
|   | <sup>1</sup> 2010/11        | 14          | 11         | 5              | 2          | 32           |
|   |                             |             |            |                |            |              |
| <b>Programme board members</b>                  | <sup>2</sup> <b>2011/12</b> | <b>6</b>    | <b>4</b>   | <b>2</b>       | <b>1</b>   | <b>13</b>    |
|   | 2010/11                     | 6           | 4          | 3              | 1          | 14           |
|   |                             |             |            |                |            |              |
| <b>Panel members</b>                            | <b>2011/12</b>              | <b>4</b>    | <b>3</b>   | <b>1</b>       | <b>1</b>   | <b>9</b>     |
|   | 2010/11                     | 4           | 2          | 2              | 1          | 9            |
|   |                             |             |            |                |            |              |
| <b>Fire Services Mgt Committee</b>              | <b>2011/12</b>              | <b>7</b>    | <b>5</b>   | <b>2</b>       | <b>1</b>   | <b>15</b>    |
|   | 2010/11                     | 7           | 4          | 3              | 1          | 15           |

<sup>1</sup> Balancing members were not included in the 2010/11 Group Executive

<sup>2</sup> Under normal rounding up/down conventions, calculations leave one place free on each programme board for negotiation amongst Groups

**Table 2 - Current allocation of chairs and vice chairs (2010/2011)**

| <b>Structure</b>             | <b>Chairs</b>    | <b>Vice Chairs</b> |
|------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Programme boards</b>      |                  |                    |
| Children & Young People      | Conservative     | Labour             |
| Community Well-being         | 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>                |                  |                    |
| Resources Panel              | Conservative     | Labour             |
| Audit & Scrutiny Panel       | Labour           | Liberal Democrat   |
| <b>Company Boards</b>        |                  |                    |
| LGID (as Improvement PB)     | Conservative     | Liberal Democrat   |
| LGR                          | Conservative     | Labour             |
| LGE (as Workforce PB)        | Labour           | Liberal Democrat   |
| Local Partnerships           | Liberal Democrat | Independent        |
| <b>Commissions</b>           |                  |                    |
| Rural Commission             | Conservative     | N/A                |
| Urban Commission             | Independent      | N/A                |
| Fire Commission              | Conservative     | Labour             |

## **Conclusion**

- Subject to LGA Leadership Board's endorsement, the political groups will need to begin negotiations to agree the allocation of chairs and vice chairs across the LG Group structures set out in **table 1**, and to populate all places. **Table 2** shows the current allocation of chairs and vice chairs based on existing proportionality.