

Terms of Reference: City Regions Board

1. The purpose of the City Regions Board is to represent the interests of urban areas, including those which are part of Combined Authorities or seeking devolution deals. Its remit includes devolution, economic growth, skills and employment support and wider public service reform.
2. The Board should seek to involve councillors in supporting the delivery of these priorities (through task groups, Special Interest Groups (SIGs), regional networks and other means of wider engagement); essentially operating as the centre of a network connecting to all councils and drawing on the expertise of key advisors from the sector.
3. The City Regions Board's responsibilities include.
 - 3.1. Ensuring the priorities of councils are fed into the business planning process.
 - 3.2. Developing a work programme to deliver the business plan priorities relevant to their brief, covering lobbying campaigns, research, and improvement support in the context of the strategic framework set by Improvement & Innovation Board and events and linking with other boards where appropriate.
 - 3.3. Sharing good practice and ideas to stimulate innovation and improvement.
 - 3.4. Representing and lobbying on behalf of the LGA including making public statements on its area of responsibility.
 - 3.5. Building and maintaining relationships with key stakeholders.
 - 3.6. Involving representatives from councils in its work, through task groups, Commissions, SIGs, regional networks and mechanisms.
 - 3.7. Responding to specific issues referred to the Board by one or more member councils or groupings of councils.
4. The City Regions Board may:
 - 4.1. Appoint members to relevant outside bodies in accordance with the Political Conventions.
 - 4.2. Appoint member champions from the Board to lead on key issues, with responsibility for liaising with portfolio holders on key issues that require rapid response/contact with councils.

Quorum

5. One third of the members, provided that representatives of at least 2 political groups represented on the body are present.

Political Composition

6. Membership of the City Regions Board is drawn from the Core and Key cities, SIGOMA and London Boroughs, and is reflective of those in Combined Authorities or seeking devolution deals.
7. The Board has 22 members and its make-up reflects the political proportionality of the wider group of councils from which the membership is drawn. This differs from the seven policy boards, whose make-up reflects the political proportionality of the Association as a whole.
8. The chair has been appointed from the largest group on the Board and falls within the LGA's own proportionate allocations. In line with the LGA's political conventions, the remaining groups each have a vice or deputy chair.
9. The composition by political party is recalculated each year and reflects the political proportionality of the wider group of councils from which their membership is drawn. The current composition is:
 - 9.1. Conservative group: 5 members
 - 9.2. Labour group: 14 members
 - 9.3. Independent group: 1 member
 - 9.4. Liberal Democrat group: 2 members
10. Substitute members from each political group may also be appointed.

Frequency per year

11. Meetings to be held five times per annum.

Reporting Accountabilities

12. The Board will report annually to the LGA Executive at the July meeting.