

LGA Proportionality for 2017-2018

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 2017 local government elections on 23 March and 4 May 2017.

Recommendation

That the LGA Leadership Board agree the proposed process and timetable set out in paragraphs 6 to 13 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 2017-2018

Background

1. The 2017 local government elections will take place on Thursday 4 May 2017, with the City of London Corporation elections taking place 23 March 2017.
2. Local government elections will be held in 36 English Councils and 22 Welsh Councils:
 - 2.1. 27 county councils. *Whole council elections.*
 - 2.2. 7 English unitary authorities (including the Isle of Scilly). *Whole council elections.*
 - 2.3. 1 metropolitan borough council. *Whole council election.*
 - 2.4. 22 Welsh unitary councils. *Whole council elections.*
 - 2.5. 1 City of London Corporation. *Whole council election.*
3. There are around 2,410 seats being contested, which is around 13 per cent of all councillors in England. Around 17.9 million electors will have the opportunity to vote, which equates to about 46 per cent of the English electorate.
4. On the same day, the following elections will also be held:
 - 4.1. Mayoral elections in Doncaster and North Tyneside.
 - 4.2. Combined Authority Mayoral elections in Greater Manchester; Liverpool City Region; Tees Valley; West Midlands; West of England; and Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.
 - 4.3. Scottish local government.
5. This report summarises the process and timetable for confirming changes to LGA proportionality for 2017-2018 and for agreeing the allocation of seats and distribution of chairs and vice-chairs.

Process and timetable

6. The LGA's estimated proportionality figures should be available **on Monday, 8 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 emailed to Group Leaders and Heads of Group Offices as soon as they are available.
7. The election results data, commissioned from Professors Colin Rallings and Michael Thrasher, should be available on **Wednesday, 10 May** and will also include all by-election results since the previous year. Professors Rallings and Thrasher also prepare estimated LGA proportionality figures, which are checked against the LGA's own estimates therefore the final verified figures will not be available until **Thursday, 11 May**.

Any large variations will be shared with Group Leaders and Heads of Group Offices the same day.

8. The Heads of Group Offices and Head of Corporate Services will meet **on Wednesday, 10 May** to discuss the impact of the estimated figures on:
 - 8.1. the allocation of seats amongst the groups; and
 - 8.2. the distribution of chair and vice-chair places.
9. Following this meeting, the Heads of Group Offices will brief their respective leading members.
10. The final definitive, political balance will be calculated by the LGA Research and Information team and will be available **on Thursday, 11 May**. Political Group Leaders will meet **on Thursday, 11 May** to discuss the final calculations.
11. A report setting out the distribution of places and the distribution of chair and vice-chair places will be brought to the LGA Leadership Board meeting on **Wednesday, 7 June**. In the event of any difference of opinion on the implications of the figures group offices will arrange for Group Leaders to meet and discuss.
12. Nominations for LGA Office Holders must be made by the political groups to the Annual Meeting of the General Assembly on 4 July in Birmingham. The Groups will also need to agree the distribution of chairs and vice-chairs between them and use their respective methods to populate the seats allocated to them.
13. This exercise should be completed by 1 August to enable sufficient time for Member Services to confirm all appointments in writing and invite new members to the LGA Councillors' Briefing Day on Thursday, 14 September 2017.
14. The full timetable, including key General Assembly dates, is set out at **Appendix A**.

Financial implications

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