

Local Elections and LGA Political Balance 2018/19

Purpose

For decision.

Summary

Local government elections took place on Thursday 3 May 2018 in England and Wales.

Following the election results, the definitive figures for the LGA's proportionality for 2018/19 have been confirmed. 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.

Recommendations

That the LGA Leadership Board endorses the proportionality figures for 2018/19 meeting year.

Action

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

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Background

1. The 2018 local government elections took place on Thursday 3 May 2018 in 151 English councils, as well as a combined authority mayoral contest in South Yorkshire (Sheffield City Region) and five directly elected local authority mayoral elections.

LGA Proportionality

2. The final figures for 2018/19, based on data provided by Professors Rawlings and Thrasher (formerly of the LGC Elections Centre at the University of Plymouth) are set out below along with the 2017/18 figures. The figures include the effect of the 50 per cent weighting for Welsh authorities, and the respective weightings for two tier areas.

	Conservative %	Labour %	Lib Dem %	Ind %
2018/19	43.36	38.79	9.72	8.13
2017/18	43.88	38.07	9.40	8.65

3. Under the LGA Constitution, the largest group appoints the Chair of the Association. For 2018/19, the Conservative Group takes the LGA chairmanship by 4.57 per cent. The LGA Chairman also chairs the Leadership Board, the LGA Executive and the Councillors' Forum. The remaining Office Holders are appointed according to proportionality. Under the LGA Constitution, the Senior Vice-Chair of the LGA is the leader of the second largest group, which for 2018/19 is the Labour Group.

LGA Governance Structures

4. Once the LGA's overall political balance has been calculated, the result is applied to each of our political structures to determine their make-up. Mathematical rounding is applied to allocate available seats to match each Political Group's proportionality. Figures are calculated to two decimal places and any group whose balance is above 0.5 is rounded up and below 0.5 rounded down. The only exception is where adopting this approach would have the effect of increasing the size of the board or committee. In that instance, the group with the smallest amount above 0.5 is rounded down.
5. The four-member Audit Commission, Commercial Advisory Board and Property Company Boards are not included in the LGA's political balance, but are represented by one member from each of the political groups.
6. The revised breakdowns are set out in [Appendix A](#).

06 June 2018

LGA Leadership Board

7. The LGA Leadership Board comprises a core group of eleven places, made up of the Chairman, four Vice-Chairs (the LGA's Group Leaders) and six Deputy Chairs. As in 2017/18, one additional place has been negotiated for each group giving a Board comprising six Conservatives, five Labour, two Liberal Democrats and two Independents.

Chairs

8. The LGA's nine Boards, together with the Fire Services Management Committee, gives a total of ten Chairs.

LGA Executive

9. Core membership of the LGA Executive comprises the LGA Leadership Board, the Chairs of the nine boards and representatives of the nine English regions and Wales. From September 2018, the core membership of the Executive will be 34 (15 Leadership Board Members, 10 Board Chairs, and 9 regional representatives).
10. Under the LGA Constitution, regional and Welsh appointments to the Executive are encouraged to be made from the largest group. The LGA Executive balance will be calculated when once the regional nominations are confirmed in August. If required, Groups may either appoint additional members as balancing members, or allocate additional voting rights to existing members to achieve the balance.
11. The Chairs of CCN, DCN, SIGOMA and Local Partnerships attend Executive meetings in a non-voting capacity and are not included in the political balance.

Policy Boards

12. The seven policy boards have a proportionate membership of 18, including the Chair:
- 12.1. Children & Young People
 - 12.2. Community Wellbeing
 - 12.3. Culture, Tourism & Sport
 - 12.4. Environment, Economy, Housing & Transport
 - 12.5. Improvement & Innovation
 - 12.6. Resources
 - 12.7. Safer & Stronger Communities
13. In 2018/19, the strict application of the political balance to the seven 18 Member policy boards would provide the following number of places to each Group:

Places	Cons	Lab	Lib Dem	Ind
18	8 (7.81)	7 (6.98)	2 (1.75)	1 (1.46)

06 June 2018

14. As in 2017/18, the Independent Group would have one Member on each 18 Member board. Following negotiation, the Chairman and Group Leaders of the other three groups have agreed two additional Board places to be allocated to the Independent Group, funded from LGA resources. These places were allocated to the Community Wellbeing Board and the Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board. This agreement is only applicable to the 2018/19 political year and does not set a precedent for future years.

City Regions and People & Places Boards

15. The City Regions and People & Places Boards were established in February 2014. The make-up of these Boards reflects the political proportionality of the wider group of councils from which their membership is drawn and each has an additional Deputy Chair drawn from the same group as the Chair.

Fire Services Management Committee and Fire Commission

16. The Fire Services Management Committee membership of 14 is drawn from authorities with responsibility for fire & rescue.
17. All fire authorities in full or corporate membership of the Local Government Association appoint to the Fire Commission, with additional balancing members then appointed by the Political Group Office to reflect the LGA's overall political balance. This process is conducted separately in early autumn.

Appendix A: Allocation of places on LGA governance structures

Structure	Year	Cons	Lab	Lib Dem	Ind	Total
LGA Leadership Board (core group is 11 places) * an additional place per group was negotiated	2018/19	6	5	2	2	15*
	2017/18	6	5	2	2	15*
Chairs of Boards and Fire Services Management Cttee	2018/19	4	4	1	1	10
	2017/18	4	4	1	1	10
LGA Executive (excluding regional or balancing places)	2018/19	10	9	3	3	24
	2017/18	10	9	3	3	24
Boards (7) (18 Members) * Plus one additional place on the EEHT and CWB Boards	2018/19	8	7	2	1*	18*
	2017/18	8	7	2	1*	18*
City Regions Board (22 Members)	Political Balance					
		Lab	Cons	Lib Dem	Ind	
	2018/19	64.9%	22.2%	7.7%	5.2%	
	2017/18	63.3%	23.1%	7.3%	6.3%	
	Seats on the City Regions Board					
	2018/19	14	5	2	1	22
2017/18	14	5	2	1	22	
People & Places Board (22 Members)	Political Balance					
		Cons	Lab	Lib Dem	Ind	
	2018/19	63.1%	17.2%	11.4%	8.3%	22
	2017/18	63.3%	17.1%	11.1%	8.5%	22
	Seats on the People & Places Board					
	2018/19	14	4	2	2	22
2017/18	14	4	2	2	22	
Fire Services Management Committee	2018/19	6	6	1	1	14
	2017/18	6	6	1	1	14