

LGA Vice-Presidents 2014-15

Purpose of report

For discussion and endorsement.

Summary

This paper details those Members of the House of Commons and House of Lords that the LGA Political Groups have invited to be Vice-Presidents for 2014-15, and who the Groups' hope to formally appoint following their agreement.

Recommendation

That Leadership Board notes the appointments made by the Political Groups.

Action

Agree appointments to be formally reported at the LGA General Assembly.

Contact officer:

David Holdstock

Position:

Director of Communications

Phone no:

020 7664 3212

E-mail:

david.holdstock@local.gov.uk

LGA Vice-Presidents 2014-2015

Background

1. Every year the LGA appoints Vice Presidents to act as our champions in Parliament and Europe. Under the Constitution, Vice Presidents are appointed by the four LGA political groups and reported at the Annual LGA General Assembly.
2. The Public Affairs team seeks to work closely with this group of MPs and Peers. This includes using Vice Presidents as a first port of call for Parliamentary Questions, amendments to legislation, debate interventions and speeches, Early Day Motions and any other parliamentary methods designed to increase the profile of the LGA, help protect and enhance the reputation of councils, and to pursue our campaigning objectives in and around Parliament. Vice-Presidents usually have a strong background in local government and are committed to supporting LGA priorities in Westminster.
3. We offer Vice Presidents bespoke briefing notes and verbal briefings as required, use of LGA facilities, subscription to LGA bulletins and publications, free attendance to our conferences and speaking opportunities at LGA events.
4. Engagement with Vice-Presidents largely focuses around our corporate campaigns (actively seeking their support and involvement) and those pieces of legislation deemed a priority for LGA members by the Leadership Board at the start of each parliamentary session.
5. LGA Vice-Presidents receive the following benefits and support from the LGA:
 - Tailored briefings to support LGA activity in Parliament and corporate campaigns.
 - The ability to contact the LGA for ad hoc briefings to support their own activity, or advice from LGA policy experts
 - Complimentary use of LGA facilities including meeting rooms
 - Free attendance for them and their staff at LGA conferences and events
 - Opportunities to speak at LGA conferences and events
 - Opportunities to write for LGA publications
 - Complimentary subscription to hard copy of First magazine
 - Weekly (when Parliament is sitting) LGA Parliamentary e-bulletin
 - Opportunity to subscribe to the Daily LGA News Headlines e-bulletin if they wish to
 - Invitations to LGA events in parliament, including our annual reception, and a bespoke annual LGA Vice-Presidents event.

Proposed UK Parliament Vice-Presidents for 2014-15

6. Political Groups can have up to twelve Vice-Presidents, spread across Westminster and the European Parliament.
7. Bold text indicates new nominations invited to become Vice Presidents for the first time. Unbolded text indicates those current Vice Presidents being invited to remain in post for another year.

Conservative

1. Stewart Jackson MP (Peterborough)
2. Henry Smith MP (Crawley)
3. Charles Walker MP (Broxbourne)
4. Heather Wheeler MP (South Derbyshire)
5. Margot James MP (Stourbridge)
6. Baroness Eaton
7. Lord Jenkin Of Roding
8. **Lord Whitby of Harborne**
9. **Lord True**

Labour

1. Clive Betts MP (Sheffield South East)
2. Louise Ellman MP (Liverpool Riverside)
3. Ian Mearns MP (Gateshead)
4. Andy Sawford MP (Corby)
5. Steve Reed MP (Croydon North)
6. Lord Beecham
7. Baroness Smith of Basildon
8. Lord Smith of Leigh
9. **Lord Whitty**

At the time of writing, the LGA Labour Group were considering their final nomination for 2014/15, including individuals such as Heidi Alexander MP (Lewisham East) and Gisela Stuart MP (Edgbaston).

Liberal Democrats

1. Gordon Birtwistle MP (Burnley)
2. Annette Brooke MP (Mid Dorset and Poole North)
3. Julian Huppert MP (Cambridge)
4. **John Pugh MP (Southport)**
5. **Tim Farron MP (Westmorland and Lonsdale)**
6. Baroness Barker
7. Lord Greaves
8. Baroness Maddock
9. Lord Shipley
10. Lord Tope
11. **Baroness Bakewell**

Independents

1. Lord Alton
2. Lord Bichard
3. Baroness Greengross
4. Baroness Howarth
5. Lord Ouseley
6. Lord Adebawale CBE
7. Lord Laming
- 8. Baroness Jones (Green)**
- 9. Lord Pearson of Rannoch (UKIP)**
10. Earl of Lytton

Members of the European Parliament

8. A separate paper has been tabled concerning the outcome of the recent European elections, during which LGA Vice Presidents in the European Parliament will be discussed.
9. For information, the following 2013/14 LGA Vice-Presidents have been re-elected:
 - a. Philip Bradbourn MEP, Conservative
 - b. Julie Girling MEP, Conservative
 - c. Richard Howitt MEP, Labour
 - d. Derek Vaughan MEP, Labour
 - e. Keith Taylor MEP, Green (Independent)
 - f. Catherine Bearder MEP, Liberal Democrat
10. Edward McMillan Scott MEP (Liberal Democrat) was not re-elected.
11. The Political Groups have indicated their interest in appointing for a further twelve months those Vice Presidents who have been re-elected.
12. The LGA Conservative Group has indicated their intention to appoint newly elected Andrew Lewer MEP given his strong local government and LGA background.
13. The LGA Independent Group has indicated that they are considering appointing a UKIP MEP to their pool of Vice Presidents.

Code of Conduct

14. The LGA President and Vice Presidents are required to operate in accordance with the Code of Conduct for Members of the House of Lords, House of Commons, and European Parliament. This has been made clear in invitations to new Vice-Presidents, and will be referenced in letters to those Vice-Presidents whose role is being renewed for a further year.

Financial Implications

15. There are no financial implications to this paper.