

## **Local Elections and LGA Political Balance 2014-2015**

### **Purpose of report**

For decision.

### **Summary**

Local elections in England and elections to the European Parliament took place on 22 May 2014. The LGC Elections Centre at the University of Plymouth has provided the definitive figures for the LGA's proportionality for 2014-2015. This report sets out the revised proportionality and its implications for the distribution of seats amongst the political groups on the LGA's governance structures.

### **Recommendation**

That the Leadership Board endorses the proportionality figures for 2014/2015, as the basis for negotiating the allocation of chairs and vice-chairs and populating all governance structures.

### **Action**

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

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## Local Elections and LGA Political Balance 2014-2015

### Background

1. The 2014 local elections took place on Thursday, 22 May in all 32 London Boroughs, all 36 Metropolitan Districts, 72 District Councils, and 19 Unitary Authorities. The London Boroughs of Hackney, Lewisham, Newham and Tower Hamlets and Watford Borough Council held mayoral elections and 161 councils held by-elections.
2. Mayors Jules Pipe (Hackney), Sir Steve Bullock (Lewisham), Sir Robin Wales (Newham), Lutfur Rahman (Tower Hamlets) and Dorothy Thornhill MBE (Watford) were re-elected in the mayoral elections.

### LGA proportionality

3. Overall, since the LGA's proportionality was calculated in 2013, and including the impact of elections, by-elections, and defections, the Conservatives have lost 283 seats and the Liberal Democrats have lost 338, whilst Labour has made a net gain of 266. Total gains for independent councillors and the smaller parties are 298, of which 185 are UKIP.
4. The final figures for 2014-2015, based on data provided by the University of Plymouth are set out below along with the 2013/14 figures. The figures include the effect of the 50% weighting for Welsh authorities, and the respective weightings for two tier areas.

Year	Labour	Conservative	Lib Dem	Ind / other
<b>2014/15</b>	<b>40.6</b>	<b>38.3</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>10.3</b>
2013/14	38.8	39.4	12.9	8.8

5. Under the LGA Constitution, the largest party appoints the chair of the Association. For 2014/2015 the Labour Group takes the LGA chairmanship by 2.3%. The LGA Chair also chairs the Leadership Board, the Executive and the Councillors' Forum. The remaining Office Holders are appointed according to proportionality.
6. The political balance on each of the Association's governance structures is calculated according to proportionally. The four-member Audit Committee is not included.

### LGA Leadership Board

7. The Leadership Board is made up of the Chair, Vice and Deputy chairs of the Association. For 2014/15, it increases from 11 to 13 members comprising 5 Labour, 5 Conservatives, 2 Liberal Democrats and 1 Independent.

### Chairs

8. Under the new governance arrangements that come into effect on 1 September 2014 the LGA will have 9 Boards along with the Fire Services Management Committee, giving a total of 10 chairs.

### **LGA Executive**

9. Core membership of the LGA Executive comprises the Leadership Board, the Chairs of the 9 boards and representatives of the 9 English regions and Wales. From September 2014, when the new governance arrangements come into effect, the core membership of the Executive will be 32.
10. Under the revised Constitution, regional and Welsh appointments to the Executive should be made from the largest group in that region. Given current proportionality across the country a further 7 balancing members will be required, bringing the Executive to 39 members.
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 of the Executive.

### **Boards**

12. The new Board arrangements, agreed at General Assembly on 23 January 2014 will come into effect on 1 September. The following 7 boards will each have a proportionate membership of 18, including the chair.

Children & Young People  
Community Wellbeing  
Culture, Tourism & Sport  
Environment, Economy, Housing & Transport  
Improvement & Innovation  
Resources  
Safer & Stronger Communities

13. The City Regions and People & Places Boards were established in February 2014. For 2014/15 City Regions Board will have 22 places and People & Places Board 23 places. 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**

14. The Fire Services Management Committee membership of 14 is drawn from authorities with responsibility for fire & rescue.

### **Conclusion**

20. Based on the revised proportionality, the political groups will negotiate the allocation of chairs and vice chairs across all governance structures set out in Table 1 (attached).

**Table 1 – Allocation of places for each structure**

Structure	Year	Lab	Cons	Lib Dem	Ind	Total
<b>LGA Leadership Board (based on membership of 13 for 2014/15)</b>	<b>2014/15</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>13</b>
	2013/14	4	4	2	1	11
<b>Chairs of Boards and Fire Services Management Cttee</b>	<b>2014/15</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>10</b>
	2013/14	5	6	2	1	14
<b>LGA Executive (voting) (without balancing places)</b>	<b>2014/15</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>31</b>
	2013/14	12	12	4	3	31
<b>Boards (7) (18 Members)</b>	<b>2013/14</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>18</b>
	2013/14	7	7	2	2	18
<b>City Regions Board (22 Members)</b>	<b>Political Balance</b>					
		<b>Lab</b>	<b>Cons</b>	<b>Lib Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>	
	<b>2014/15</b>	<b>63.5</b>	<b>22.5</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>6.2</b>	
	2013/14	59.5	24.4	12.0	4.1	
	<b>Seats on the City Regions Board</b>					
	<b>2014/15</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>22</b>
2013/14	13	5	3	1	22	
<b>People &amp; Places Board (23 Members 2014/15)</b>	<b>Political Balance</b>					
		<b>Cons</b>	<b>Lab</b>	<b>Lib Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>	
	<b>2014/15</b>	<b>53.0</b>	<b>21.4</b>	<b>13.4</b>	<b>12.2</b>	
	2013/14	53.9	20.9	14.0	11.2	
	<b>Seats on the People &amp; Places Board</b>					
	<b>2014/15</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>23</b>
2013/14	12	5	3	2	22	
<b>Fire Services Management Committee</b>		<b>Lab</b>	<b>Cons</b>	<b>Lib Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>	
	<b>2014/15</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>14</b>
2013/14	6	5	2	1	14	