

LGA Political Balance 2022/23

Purpose

For decision.

Summary

Local government elections took place on Thursday 5 May 2022 in England and Wales.

Following the election results, the definitive figures for the LGA's proportionality for 2022/23 have been confirmed. 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 Board notes the proportionality figures for 2022/23 meeting year.

Action

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

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LGA Political Balance 2022/23

Background

1. The 2022 local government elections took place on Thursday 5 May 2022. The seats up for election were those last contested in 2018, plus elections for new shadow unitary authorities in North Yorkshire, Somerset, and Cumberland and Westmorland & Furness (the latter two not included in LGA balance calculations) as well as the inaugural Combined Authority Mayoral election in South Yorkshire. Elections were held for 146 English Councils and 22 Welsh Councils, equivalent to around 5,500 council seats.

LGA Proportionality

2. The final figures for 2022/23, based on data provided by Professors Rallings and Thrasher are set out below along with the 2021/22 figures for comparison.

	Conservative %	Labour %	Lib Dem %	Ind %
2022/23	38.2	35.9	13.2	12.7
2021/22	39.9	35.8	12.5	11.9

3. Under the LGA Articles of Association, the largest group appoints the Chair of the Association. For 2022/23, the Conservative Group takes the LGA Chairmanship by 2.3 percent. The LGA Chairman also chairs the LGA Board, the Executive Advisory Board and the Councillors' Forum. The remaining Office Holders are appointed according to proportionality. Under the Articles, the Senior Vice-Chair of the LGA is the leader of the second largest group, which for 2022/23 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 one decimal place 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 Committee, Commercial Advisory Board, LGA Commercial Services Ltd, 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**.

LGA Board

7. This year the LGA Board comprises a core group of ten places, made up of the Chairman, four Vice-Chairs (the LGA's Group Leaders) and five Deputy Chairs. As in recent years, one additional place has been allocated to each group giving a Board comprising five Conservatives, five Labour, two Liberal Democrats and two Independents.

LGA Board	Places	Cons	Lab	Lib Dem	Ind	Total
2022/23	14	5 (5.3)	5 (5.0)	2 (1.8)	2 (1.8)	14
2021/22	14	5	5	2	2	14

Chairs

8. The LGA's nine policy Boards, together with the Fire Services Management Committee, gives a total of ten Chairs. Divided according to proportionality this gives the Conservative group 4 Chairs, the Labour group 4 Chairs, the Liberal Democrat group 1 Chair and the Independent group 1 Chair.

Chairs	Places	Cons	Lab	Lib Dem	Ind
Political Balance 2022/23	10	4 (3.8)	4 (3.6)	1 (1.3)	1 (1.3)
Political Balance 2021/22	10	4	4	1	1

Vice-Chairs

9. The LGA's nine policy Boards, together with the Fire Services Management Committee, each have a Vice-Chair. The City Regions and People & Places Boards have an additional Vice-Chair drawn from the same group as the Chair. This gives a total of 12 Vice-Chairs.

Vice Chairs	Places	Cons	Lab	Lib Dem	Ind
Political Balance 2022/23	12	5 (4.6)	4 (4.3)	2* (1.6)	1* (1.5)
Political Balance 2021/22	12	5	5	1	1

**Highest decimal rounded to achieve political balance*

Executive Advisory Board

10. Core membership of the Executive Advisory Board comprises the LGA Board, the Chairs of the nine Boards and representatives of the nine English regions and Wales. The core membership of the Executive is 32 (14 LGA Board Members, 9 Board Chairs, and 9 regional representatives).

11. Under the LGA Articles of Association, regional and Welsh appointments to the Executive are encouraged to be made from the largest group. The Executive Advisory Board 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.
12. The Chairs of CCN, DCN, SIGOMA and Local Partnerships are invited to nominate Members and are not included in the political balance, as set out in the LGA's Governance Framework.

Policy Boards

13. The seven policy boards have a proportionate membership of 18, including the Chair:
 - 13.1. Children & Young People
 - 13.2. Community Wellbeing
 - 13.3. Culture, Tourism & Sport
 - 13.4. Environment, Economy, Housing & Transport
 - 13.5. Improvement & Innovation
 - 13.6. Resources
 - 13.7. Safer & Stronger Communities
14. In 2022/23, the strict application of the political balance to the seven 18 Member policy boards would provide the following number of places to each Group:

Policy Boards	Places	Cons	Lab	Lib Dem	Ind
Political Balance 2022/23	18	7 (6.9)	7 (6.5)	2 (2.4)	2 (2.3)
Political Balance 2021/22	18	7	7	2	2

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. The political balance of these Boards is included in full in **Appendix A**.

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.

FSMC	Places	Cons	Lab	Lib Dem	Ind
2022/23	14	5	5	2	2
2021/22	14	5	5	2	2

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.