

## **Local Elections and LGA Political Balance 2015-2016**

### **Purpose**

For decision.

### **Summary**

Local elections in England and elections to the English Parliament took place on 7 May 2015. The LGC Elections Centre at the University of Plymouth has provided the definitive figures for the LGA's proportionality for 2015-2016. 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.

### **Recommendation**

That the LGA Executive notes the revised proportionality figures for 2015/2016.

### **Action**

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

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## Local Elections and LGA Political Balance 2015-2016

### Background

1. The 2015 local elections took place alongside the UK Parliamentary Election on Thursday, 7 May. More than 9,000 council seats were contested across 279 English local authorities. In 161 of these councils, all the seats were up for election and in the rest, one third. The Conservatives were defending 4,965 seats, Labour 2,447, Liberal Democrats 1,044, UKiP 119, the Greens 82 and others 971. Six mayoral elections also took place on 7 May, in Bedford, Copeland, Leicester, Mansfield, Middlesbrough and Torbay.

### LGA proportionality

2. Overall, since the LGA's proportionality was calculated in 2014, and including the impact of elections, by-elections, and defections, the Conservatives have gained 541 seats, Labour have lost 203 seats and the Liberal Democrats 411 seats. Total gains for independent councillors and the smaller parties are 188 of which 176 are UKIP.
3. The final figures for 2015-2016, based on data provided by the University of Plymouth are set out below along with the 2014/15 figures. The figures include the effect of the 50% weighting for Welsh authorities, and the respective weightings for two tier areas.

Year	Conservative	Labour	Ind/Other	Lib Dems
<b>2015/16</b>	<b>40.6</b>	<b>40.0</b>	<b>10.1</b>	<b>9.4</b>
2014/15	38.3	40.6	10.3	10.8

4. Under the LGA Constitution, the largest party appoints the chair of the Association. For 2015/2016 the Conservative Group takes the LGA chairmanship by 0.6 per cent. The LGA Chair also chairs the Leadership Board, the LGA Executive and the Councillors' Forum. The remaining Office Holders are appointed according to proportionality.
5. The political balance on each of the Association's governance structures is calculated according to proportionality. The four-member Audit Commission and the Commercial Advisory Board are not included.

#### LGA Leadership Board

6. The LGA Leadership Board comprises a core group of 11 places, made up of the Chair, 4 Vice-Chairs (the LGA's Group Leaders) and 6 Deputy chairs. In 2014/15, the Board increased to 13 places comprising 5 Labour, 5 Conservatives, 2 Liberal Democrats and 1 Independent.

#### Chairs

7. The LGA's 9 Boards, together with the Fire Services Management Committee, gives a total of 10 chairs.

#### LGA Executive

8. Core membership of the LGA Executive comprises the LGA Leadership Board, the Chairs of the 9 boards and representatives of the 9 English regions and Wales. From September 2015, the core membership of the Executive will be 31.

9. Under the LGA 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 6 balancing members will be required, bringing the Executive to 37 members.
10. 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 LGA Executive.

#### **Boards**

11. The following 7 boards will each have a proportionate membership of 18, including the chair.
  - 11.1. Children & Young People
  - 11.2. Community Wellbeing
  - 11.3. Culture, Tourism & Sport
  - 11.4. Environment, Economy, Housing & Transport
  - 11.5. Improvement & Innovation
  - 11.6. Resources
  - 11.7. Safer & Stronger Communities
12. 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**

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

#### **Conclusion**

14. 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	Cons	Lab	Lib Dem	Ind	Total
<b>LGA Leadership Board (core group is 11 places)</b>	<b>2015/16</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>12</b>
	2014/15	5	5	2	1	13
<b>Chairs of Boards and Fire Services Management Cttee</b>	<b>2015/16</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>10</b>
	2014/15	4	4	1	1	10
<b>LGA Executive (voting) (without balancing places)</b>	<b>2015/16</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>31</b>
	2014/15	12	13	4	3	32
<b>Boards (7) (18 Members)</b>	<b>2015/16</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>18</b>
	2014/15	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>2015/16</b>	<b>64.3</b>	<b>22.6</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>6.2%</b>	
	2014/15	63.5	22.5	7.8	6.2	
	<b>Seats on the City Regions Board</b>					
	<b>2015/16</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>22</b>
2014/15	14	5	2	1	22	
<b>People &amp; Places Board (22 Members)</b> <i>*23 places in 2014/15 to balance the Board</i>	<b>Political Balance</b>					
		<b>Cons</b>	<b>Lab</b>	<b>Lib Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>	
	<b>2015/16</b>	<b>56.6</b>	<b>20.3</b>	<b>11.7</b>	<b>11.4</b>	
	2014/15	53.0	21.4	13.4	12.2	23*
	<b>Seats on the People &amp; Places Board</b>					
	<b>2015/16</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>22</b>
2014/15	12	5	3	3	23	
<b>Fire Services Management Committee</b>	<b>2015/16</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>14</b>
	2014/15	6	5	2	1	14