

LGA Proportionality for 2016-2017

Purpose of report

For decision.

Summary

This report sets out the proposed timetable for confirming changes to LGA proportionality, and agreeing the allocation of seats and distribution of chairs and vice-chairs, following the 2016 local government elections on 5 May.

Recommendation

That the LGA Leadership Board agree the proposed process and timetable set out in paragraphs 5 to 12 of the report.

Action

Officers and LGA Leadership Board to take forward the timetable as set out in the report.

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LGA Proportionality for 2016-2017

Background

1. The 2016 local government elections will take place on Thursday, 5 May in 124 English Councils:
 - 1.1. A total of thirty five metropolitan districts (mainly by thirds, although whole in three councils);
 - 1.2. Some seventy district councils (mainly by thirds, although seven by halves and twelve will have elections across the whole council); and
 - 1.3. Nineteen English unitary authorities (mainly by thirds, although whole in three councils).
2. There are an estimated total of 2,743 seats being contested, which is around 15.5 per cent of all councillors in England. Around 16.3 million electors will have the opportunity to vote, which equates to about 42% of the English electorate.
3. On the same day, the following elections will also be held:
 - 3.1. Mayoral elections in Bristol, Liverpool and Salford;
 - 3.2. The Greater London Authority elections for Mayor and Assembly;
 - 3.3. Police and Crime Commissioner elections in 41 police force areas in England & Wales (excluding London);
 - 3.4. Scottish Parliament; and
 - 3.5. National Assembly for Wales.
4. This report summarises the process and timetable for confirming changes to LGA proportionality for 2016-2017 and for agreeing the allocation of seats and distribution of chairs and vice-chairs.

Process and timetable

5. The LGA's estimated proportionality figures should be available **on Monday, 9 May**. The interim figures, showing the effect of the changes in proportionality on the distribution of seats amongst the LGA's political groups, will be e-mailed to Group Leaders and Heads of Group Offices as soon as they are available.
6. The election results data, commissioned from the LGC Elections Centre at the University of Plymouth, should be available **on Wednesday, 11 May**. The University of Plymouth also prepare estimated LGA proportionality figures, which are checked against the LGA's own estimates therefore the final verified figures will not be available until **Thursday 12**

May. Any large variations will be shared with Group Leaders and Heads of Group Offices the same day.

7. The Heads of Group Offices, Head of Corporate Services and Member Services Manager will meet **on Wednesday 11 May** to discuss the impact of the estimated figures on:
 - 7.1. the allocation of seats amongst the groups; and
 - 7.2. the distribution of chair and vice-chair places.
8. Following this meeting, the Heads of Group Offices will brief their respective leading members.
9. The final definitive, political balance will be calculated by the LGA Analysis and Research team and will be available **on Thursday, 12 May**. Political Group Leaders will meet **on Thursday 12 May** to discuss the final calculations.
10. A report setting out the distribution of places and the distribution of chair and vice-chair places will be brought to the LGA Leadership Board meeting on **Wednesday, 8 June**. In the event of any difference of opinion on the implications of the figures group offices will arrange for Group Leaders to meet and discuss.
11. Nominations for LGA Office Holders must be made by the political groups to the Annual Meeting of the General Assembly on 5 July in Bournemouth. The Groups will also need to agree the distribution of chairs and vice-chairs between them and use their respective methods to populate the seats allocated to them.
12. This exercise should be completed by 1 August to enable sufficient time for Member Services to confirm all appointments in writing and invite new members to the LGA Councillors' Briefing Day on Thursday, 15 September 2016.
13. The full timetable, including key General Assembly dates, is set out at **Appendix A**.

Financial implications

14. There are no unbudgeted financial implications for the LGA.