

Local Elections and LGA Political Balance 2013-2014

Purpose of report

For noting.

Summary

Local elections in England took place on 2 May. The LGC Elections Centre at the University of Plymouth has provided the definitive figures for the LGA's proportionality for 2013-2014. 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 Executive notes the report.

Action

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

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Background

1. The 2013 local elections took place on Thursday, 2 May in 35 English councils. All 27 county councils, seven unitary authorities and one Welsh unitary authority held elections. Doncaster and North Tyneside Councils held mayoral elections.
2. Since the last local elections in 2012 there have been a number of boundary changes around the country, sparking a number of by-elections. 91 councils held by-elections on 2 May, 21 of which held more than one by-election.
3. North Tyneside and Doncaster elected Mayors Ros Jones and Norma Redfearn - Labour's first female Mayors.

LGA proportionality

4. Overall, since the LGA's proportionality was calculated in 2012, and including the impact of elections, by-elections, boundary changes and defections, the Conservatives have lost 451 seats and the Liberal Democrats have lost 148, whilst Labour has made a net gain of 282. Total gains for independent councillors and the smaller parties are 230, of which 161 are UKIP.
5. The final figures for 2013-2014, based on data provided by the University of Plymouth are set out below along with the 2012/13 figures. The figures include the effect of the 50% weighting for Welsh authorities, and the respective weightings for two tier areas.

Year	Conservative	Labour	Lib Dem	Ind / other
2013/14	39.4	38.8	12.9	8.8
2012/13	43.2	35.8	14.4	6.7

6. Under the LGA Constitution, the largest party appoints the chairman of the Association. For 2013/2014 the Conservative Group retains chairmanship of the Association by 0.6%. The LGA Chairman also chairs the LGA Leadership Board, the LGA Executive and the Councillors' Forum. The remaining Office Holders are appointed according to proportionality.
7. The political balance on each of the Association's governance structures is calculated with reference to proportionally and/or by agreement between group leaders. The four-member Audit Committee is not included in the proportionality figures.

Item 7

LGA Leadership Board

8. The core membership of the LGA Leadership Board is 11 members. In 2012, as a result of rounding, membership increased to 12. In 2013, calculations support a return to an 11 member Leadership Board made up of the chairman plus 3 additional Conservatives, 4 Labour, 2 Liberal Democrat and 1 Independent.

Chairs

9. Currently the LGA has nine boards, two panels and the urban, rural and fire commissions, giving a total of 14 chairs. Subject to members' decision on Item 18 on this agenda, this number could potentially reduce to 13 or 12.

LGA Executive

10. Core membership of the LGA Executive comprises the Leadership Board, the chairs of the 9 boards and the finance panel and representatives of the 9 English regions and Wales. In 2012, based on a 12 place leadership board this amounted to 32 voting places. This figure will drop to 31 in 2013/14, or potentially to 30 depending on the decision on item 18. Additional balancing members may be appointed to maintain proportionality once the regional and Welsh appointments have been made.
11. The chairs of the Resources Panel, CCN, DCN, SIGOMA, the Leadership Centre and Local Partnerships are entitled to attend Executive meetings in a non-voting capacity and are not included in the political balance of the Executive.

Boards and Panels

12. Currently each of the 9 boards has a core membership of 18, including the chair. The Safer & Stronger Communities Board includes the chair of the Fire Services Management Committee. The European & International board includes one representative from each of the remaining boards except Community Wellbeing and Culture, Tourism and Sport, and three representatives from the European bodies.
13. The Resources and Finance Panels each have a core membership of 9 members.

Commissions/Fire Services Management Committee

14. The LGA appoints only the chairs of the Urban and Rural Commissions. The vice and deputy chairs are agreed by the Commission members. The Fire Services Management Committee membership of 14 is drawn from authorities with responsibility for fire & rescue.

Conclusion

20. Subject to decisions taken by the Board on the recommendations set out in Item 18 on this agenda, the political groups will negotiate the allocation of chairs and vice chairs across the LGA member structures set out in **Table 1 (attached)**.

Table 1 – Allocation of places for each structure

Structure	Year	Cons	Lab	Lib Dem	Ind	Total
LGA Leadership Board (based on 11 members for 2013-2014)	2013/14	4.33	4.26	1.41	0.96	
	Rounded	4	4	2¹	1	11
	2012/13	5	4	2	1	12
Chairs of boards/panels/ commissions	2013/14	5.51	5.43	1.80	1.23	
	Rounded	6	5	2	1	14
	2012/13	6	5	2	1	14
Less 1 board/panel	2013/14	5.12	5.04	1.67	1.14	
	Rounded	5	5	2	1	13
Less 2 board/panels	2013/14	4.72	4.65	1.54	1.05	
	Rounded	5	5	1²	1	12
LGA Executive (voting)	2013/14	³12	12	4	3	31
	2012/13	13	12	5	2	32
Board members 18 Member Board	2013/14	7.09	6.98	2.32	1.58	
	Rounded	7	7	2	2	18
	2012/13	8	6	3	1	18
Panel members	2013/14	3.54	3.49	1.16	.79	
	Rounded	4	3	1	1	9
	2012/13	4	3	1	1	9
Fire Services Management Committee	2013/14	5.51	5.43	1.80	1.23	
	Rounded	6	5	2	1	14
	2011/12	6	5	2	1	14

¹ Rounded up

² Rounded down

³ Balancing members for 31 or 30-place Executive will be calculated once regional and Welsh representatives are confirmed.