

Committee: Policy and Resources Committee	Date: 19 October 2015
Subject: Local Government Association (LGA)	Public
Report of: Town Clerk	For Decision

Summary

1. The Committee recently considered a report on the work of the LGA and the City of London Corporation's involvement with the Association. During discussion reference was made to the current arrangement in place for the appointment of the City Corporation representative to serve on the LGA's General Assembly.
2. It was felt that, given that local authority representatives were entitled to participate in this element of the LGA's democratic process and had voting rights, the informal arrangement should be reviewed with a view to appointing a representative on the LGA's General Assembly formally as other authorities did.

Recommendation

3. Members are asked to consider the formal appointment of the City Corporation's representative on the LGA's General Assembly as referred to in paragraph 7 of this report.

Main Report

Background

1. At its meeting on 24 September 2015 June reference was made to the arrangement currently in place for the appointment of the City Corporation representative on the LGA's General Assembly. It was agreed that given local authority representatives were participating in the LGA's democratic process and had voting rights, the current arrangement should be reviewed.
2. The terms of reference, delegated powers, size, and political composition of all the LGA's governance structures are determined by the General Assembly. The Assembly usually convenes one annual meeting each year but other meetings can be held as required.
3. Each local authority in full, corporate or voting associate membership of the LGA is entitled to appoint a representative(s) to serve on the General Assembly. Authorities in full membership are entitled to vote on all matters at Assembly meetings. The total number of votes allocated to representatives of unitary authorities (metropolitan districts, London boroughs and English and Welsh unitary authorities) is based on the population bands determined by the LGA's Executive. The allocation of votes ranges from two votes for populations of

between 1-100,000 to 17 votes for unitary authorities with a population of 800,001 and over. It is left to local authorities to determine how votes are allocated. For example, the London Borough Southwark has 5 votes, 3 of which are allocated to the Leader of the Council, one to the Deputy Leader and one to the majority opposition councillor. Lewisham allocates its 3 votes to its elected Mayor. These decisions are determined at full meetings of the council on an annual basis.

4. If for any reason a representative is unable to attend the Annual General Assembly another representative of an authority can be nominated to attend as a substitute and exercise voting rights. This is provided that written notice is given to the Chief Executive of the LGA before the start of the meeting by the Chief Executive of the member Authority, other appropriate officer, or by the named representative.
5. The appointment of the City Corporation's LGA representative is delegated to the Policy and Resources Committee. Based on the population band the City Corporation is entitled to two votes.
6. Alderman Sir David Wootton was appointed as the City's representative in June 2003. However in the lead up to his mayoralty in 2011/12, Alderman Ian Luder took over as the representative on an informal basis and this arrangement is still currently in place.
7. Members views are now sought on the appointment of a representative. Members may wish to consider the following options:-
 - to continue with the current appointment (Alderman Sir David Wootton) as agreed in 2003, providing he is willing to continue;
 - bringing the arrangement into line with practice operated by London boroughs In the City Corporation's case this would be the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee. This option would replicate the arrangements the City Corporation operates for the London Councils' Leaders Committee;
 - appoint a representative from within Policy and Resources Committee's membership.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

13. The City Corporation is committed to working in partnership to improve local communities and the quality of life in the wider London community. Continued engagement with the LGA helps to supports this as well as the City Corporation's strategic aims to provide:-
 - modern, efficient and high quality local services, including policing, within the Square Mile for workers, residents and visitors; and
 - valued services, such as education, employment, culture and leisure, to London and the nation.

Engagement with the LGA also ensures that the City is kept up-to-date on emerging issues affecting local communities across the nation and allows the City Corporation to shape policies and be aware of best practice.

- Appendix – None

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