

NOMINATIONS TO the PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL for Wales 2020-21**Purpose**

1. To invite the Council to nominate the members to serve on the Partnership Council for the Council term 2020-21.

Background

2. Section 72 of the Government of Wales Act 2006 requires Welsh Ministers to establish and maintain a body known as the Partnership Council for Wales, this body being intended to promote joint working and co-operation between Welsh Government and local government. This body has long held a strong symbolic value as a means of sustaining central-local relationships and sharing of information.
3. Underneath the Partnership Council, there are also standing and ad hoc sub-groups, notably the Finance Sub-Group, the Local Government Reform Sub Group and a recently established Recovery Sub Group. As a standing committee, the Finance Sub-Group membership is determined by WLGA Council however membership of ad hoc sub groups (such as the Local Government Reform and Recovery Sub Groups) have been agreed via Executive Board.
4. The WLGA's representation of the Partnership Council has previously been the WLGA Leader and the WLGA Presiding Officer and a further seven nominations to reflect the political balance of the WLGA drawn, where possible, on a geographic basis. The WLGA Labour Group therefore provides 3 nominations (in addition to the Leader and Presiding Officer), the Independent Group 2 members, the Conservative Group 1 member and Plaid Cymru Group 1 member.
5. The National Park Authorities (1 collective representative) and Fire and Rescue Authorities (1 collective representative) also separately nominate representatives to the Partnership Council.
6. The WLGA membership of Partnership Council for 2019-20 was:

Councillor Andrew Morgan, WLGA Leader (Labour)
Councillor Huw David, WLGA Presiding Officer (Labour)
Councillor Huw Thomas, Cardiff (Labour)
Councillor Rob Stewart, Swansea (Labour)
Councillor Jane Mudd (Labour)
Councillor Hugh Evans, Denbighshire (Independent)
Councillor Mair Stephens, Carmarthenshire (Independent)
Councillor Ellen ap Gwynn, Ceredigion (Plaid Cymru)
Councillor Sam Rowlands, Conwy (Conservative)

7. In recent discussions with the Minister for Housing and Local Government, it has been proposed that all leaders could be members of Partnership Council to ensure full engagement on matters of mutual interest. Although there has not been agreement on this proposal, the WLGA Council may wish to make this a formal request to the Minister.
8. Council may also wish to retain the status quo of 9 WLGA members with nominees sought for 2020-21, should the Minister not be in a position to agree the membership of all 22 leaders.
9. It is also recommended that WLGA Groups nominate substitutes to attend in the absence of named representatives.

Recommendations

10. It is recommended that Council:

- 10.1 Recommends to the Minister for Housing and Local Government that all 22 leaders become members of Partnership Council; and**
- 10.2 nominates seven members to be WLGA representatives on Partnership Council (in addition to the Leader and Presiding Officer and in accordance with paragraph 4) and substitute members for each Group, as a reserve option should the Minister not be in a position to agree to membership of all 22 leaders (as per recommendation 10.1).**

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