

SOUTH EAST ENGLAND COUNCILS EXECUTIVE

Date: 16 October 2009

Subject: **Final Local Government Association Nominations for the 2010-2014 English Delegation to the Committee of the Regions**

Purpose of the Paper

For SEEC to note the attached report (see annex) from the Local Government Association (LGA) which sets out their final, agreed, nominations for the English delegation to the Committee of the Regions (CoR).

Background

In early June, the LGA invited regional LGAs to propose a list of up to six elected members for the English delegation to the CoR. SEEC received a report on the process for seeking nominations and agreed the regional nominations for the English delegation of the CoR at the SEEC AGM in July.

The final nominations to the English delegation to the CoR were agreed by the LGA Executive on 17 September. These names have been forwarded to Communities and Local Government to begin their journey through Government for final sign off. The LGA is writing to all the 2010-2014 nominees inviting them to the UK delegation meeting in Cardiff in January.

Committee of the Regions

Summary

This paper invites members to consider the English nominations to the new Committee of Regions (CoR) for 2010-14.

Recommendations

The Executive is asked to consider the English nominations to the new Committee of the Regions (CoR) for 2010-2014.

Action

Officers to action in the light of the Executive's decision/s.

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EU Committee of the Regions nominations

Background

1. With approximately half the regulation affecting local government originating from EU legislation, the Committee of Regions acts as the formal voice of local and regional government within the decision-making process in Brussels. It is consulted on all policy and legislative proposals concerning local government and CoR members have significant influence in the drafting of future EU legislation.
2. CoR has a four year term. The new mandate will be from 2010 to 2014. During this period, there is likely to be a range of EU legislative proposals which will affect councils and over which CoR members will have influence, including:
 - New environmental regulation and targets
 - A transformation of public procurement rules
 - An overhaul of EU funding regimes
 - A major review of transport policy

During the next mandate, it will be important that the cost and possible burdens of new EU legislation are a priority for CoR members and that the financial/economic impact of proposed EU legislation on local government is effectively communicated to Brussels decision makers.

LGA nominations 2010-14

3. The LGA is responsible for nominating 30 English CoR seats (15 full and 15 alternate members), with the GLA having rights to nominate a further 2 seats. The rest of the UK delegation is nominated by the three Devolved Administrations.
4. The formal process of making nominations is agreed with central government. Unfortunately, CLG ministerial agreement to the process was issued extremely late in July 2009, but the LGA had unilaterally launched the nomination process much earlier to be able to deliver a transparent process with national party groups and regional LGAs. In launching the process, the LGA office-holders placed emphasis on the need to achieve the target for the number of ethnic minority members and to ensure a balance between continuity and renewal.
5. In short, the nomination process was as follows:
 - In early June, LGA wrote to Regional LGAs to request a list of up to six names with two prioritised names to be regarded as formal regional representatives. The other names would form a 'nomination pool' from which the LGA groups could draw to form the overall delegation and to provide gender, ethnic and political balance.

- It was agreed that, as far as possible, the geographical make-up of the delegation would reflect regional populations in England.
- Applicants for the CoR were asked to provide a detailed application form to back up their nomination.
- In late July, all nine regional LGAs provided nominations to the LGA for LGA political groups to finalise the English nominations. The LGA political groups needed to deliver a good gender balance and at least three English nominees from ethnic minority communities (of whom at least 1 would be a full member).

6. The appended nominations have been devised from this process. *There is one outstanding independent group member to be agreed.*

The composition of the new delegation

7. **Political balance:** The party political make-up of the delegation respects the party balance of the LGA post June 2009.

Overall balance of the LGA (England only)

	CON	LAB	LD	OTH
(%)	47.8	24.2	21.1	6.9

Translated to COR

	OLD 2006-10 full+alt	NEW 2010-14 full+alt	Change
Conservative	6+6	8+7	Conservative gain 3 places (2 full, 1 alt)
Labour	5+6	4+4	Labour lose 3 places (1 full, 2 alt)
Liberal Democrat	4+3	3+4	Lib Dem swap one place (-1 full, + 1 alt)
Independent	1+1	1+1	Standstill
Total	16+16	16+16	

8. **Geographical balance:** Each region was allocated a notional quota of places proportionate to its population size. All regions, except London and SE, have received their notional share of seats.

	NE	NW	YH	EM	WM	E	Lon (*)	SE	SW
Should have	2	4	3	3	3	4	5	5	3
Proposed for 2010-14	2	4 (')	3	3	3	4	6	4	3
2006-10	3	3	4	3	4	4	5	4	2

(') assumes an independent nominee (tbc)

(*) including 2 GLA seats

9. Regional representation

As set out in paragraph 6, the nominations for these CoR positions have been proposed by regional LGAs. All but 2 of the 32 names on the final LGA list are based upon these regional nominations. There has been a difficult process of respecting regional LGAs' nominations whilst balancing party political, gender and, especially, ethnic targets. Thus a 30/32 figure is commendable.

All regional LGAs were asked to prioritise two names to act as regional representatives – see para 6. In all regions (except NE and EMids), these two priorities have been respected. However, in the NE and EMids, two prioritised Labour nominations (both alternate – i.e. No2 priorities) have not made the final list. This is a result of Labour having to make difficult choices resulting from its decline in seats within the UK delegation since 2006.

10. **Gender:** The 14 women members comprise 44% of the English delegation, of which 6/16 (38%) are full members and 8/16 are alternate members (50%). By comparison, in the nomination process in 2006, there were only 12 women members overall (38%), six full and six alternate members. Thus there has been an improvement in gender balance.
11. **Ethnicity** Regarding members from an ethnic minority community, we have achieved the target agreed with CLG, which is three members overall, of which one is a full member. This is exactly the same as in 2006.
12. **Balance of continuity and renewal** 21 (66%) of the nominees are currently CoR members. The situation is almost unchanged from 2006 when there were 20 former members re-nominated.

Next stage of the process

13. Should members agree this list, they will be forwarded to the CLG Minister for Local Government for approval. She will make a recommendation to the Foreign Secretary, who will make a recommendation to the Prime Minister. Once this has been agreed the nominations will be forwarded to Brussels and new COR members will take their seats in January 2010.
14. On behalf of all UK associations, the LGA provides the secretariat to the UK COR delegation. A full UK delegation meeting and induction programme is being prepared for January (hosted in Cardiff by the Welsh Assembly Government). At this meeting the leader and deputy leaders of the UK delegation will be elected.

CoR Nominations

CONSERVATIVE

Full members

Cllr Amanda Byrne, Calderdale MBC
Cllr Sir Simon Day, Devon CC
Roger Evans AM, London Assembly
Cllr Gordon Keymer, Tandridge DC
Cllr David Parsons, Leicestershire CC
Cllr Judith Pearce, Wychavon DC
Cllr David Simmonds, Hillingdon LB
Cllr Kay Twitchen, Essex CC

Alternate members

Cllr Sandra Barnes, South
Northamptonshire DC
Cllr Martin Heatley, Warwickshire CC
Cllr Herbert Manley, Cheshire West &
Chester
Cllr Alan Melton, Fenland DC
Cllr David Shakespeare, Bucks CC
Cllr Ann Stribley, Poole
Cllr Peter Thompson, Hounslow LB

Independent

Full member

Cllr Linda Gillham, Runnymede DC

Alternate member

Cllr. Mary Robinson Eden DC

LABOUR

Full members

Cllr Sir Albert Bore, Birmingham
CC
Cllr Neil Swannick, Manchester CC
Cllr Iain Malcolm, South Tyneside
Cllr Dave Wilcox, Derbyshire CC

Alternate members

Jennette Arnold AM, London
Assembly
Cllr Nilgun Canver, LB Haringey
Cllr Roger Stone, Rotherham MBC
Cllr Sharon Taylor, Stevenage DC

LIB DEM

Full members

Cllr Doris Ansari, Cornwall
Cllr Flo Clucas, Liverpool CC
Cllr Lord Graham Tope, Sutton LB

Alternate members

Cllr Paula Baker,
Basingstoke/Deane DC
Cllr Doreen Huddart, Newcastle CC
Cllr Peter Moore, Sheffield CC
Cllr Kathy Pollard, Suffolk CC

NOMINATIONS BY REGION (top two regional nominees in bold)

	CONSERVATIVE		LABOUR		LIBERAL-DEMOCRAT		INDEPENDENT		REGIONAL TOTALS			
	FULL	ALT	FULL	ALT	FULL	ALT	FULL	ALT	FULL	ALT	TOTAL	
NE	-	-	Malcolm	-	-	Huddart	-	-	1	1	2	
NW	-	Manley	Swannick	-	Clucas	-	-	[tbc]	2	2	4	
YH	Byrne	-	-	Stone	-	Moore	-	-	1	2	3	
EM	Parsons	Barnes	Wilcox	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	3	
WM	Pearce	Heatley	Bore	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	3	
E	Twitchen	Melton	-	Taylor	-	Pollard	-	-	1	3	4	
LON	Simmonds	Thompson	-	Canver	Tope	-	-	-	2	2	4	
SE	Keymer	Shakespeare	-	-	-	Baker	Gillham	-	2	2	4	
SW	Day	Stribley	-	-	Ansari	-	-	-	2	1	3	
GLA (2) ringfence	Evans	-	-	Arnold	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	
TOTAL	8	7	4	4	3	4	1	1	16	16	32	
									Women	6	8	14
									BEM	1	2	3