



Date of meeting	Monday 17 th November 2008
Title of paper	Nomination and Election Procedures
Agenda item no	B1
Paper number	8
Action required	For Decision: To agree the proposed nomination and election procedures as amended in these papers.
Paper prepared by	MAC

Nominations and Election Procedures

As papers with the proposed nomination and election procedures were not circulated at the October IE meeting, it was agreed they should be circulated after the meeting, asking IE members for comments by 6 November. It was also agreed that the opportunity should be taken to ask all LINK members for any comments they might wish to make on the proposed nomination and election procedure.

The comments received were reported to the Resources & Governance Group meeting on 6 November and discussed in detail.

Reserved places on the Executive Committee

It was suggested at the IE meeting in October that there should be reserve places on the Executive Committee for three vulnerable special interest groups: people with learning difficulties, people with mental health issues and people with physical disabilities.

R&G noted that the electoral process used to elect the Interim Executive in June had produced a very wide representative group of people including members who had physical disabilities, were carers of family members with mental health issues, came from a variety of ethnic backgrounds, included a wider range of ages and people of both genders

After consideration of members' responses and detailed discussion, the R&G Group recommend that no Executive places should be reserved for any specific interest/needs groups as it is impossible to make this provision for all such groups. If the three groups mentioned were given this entitlement, others would inevitably ask for the same thing.

The R&G group stressed that special needs groups should be given as much support and help as possible to enable them to participate fully in LINK Executive, sub Groups and other activities but that formal representation should be through the election process. . It was also noted that the Executive Committee and its Sub Groups had the power to co-opt LINK members to provide experience and expertise on particular issues and concerns.

Postal Voting

It was suggested in the responses by members that allowing for postal votes would make it easier for some people to participate and vote privately and independently without needing the help of a proxy. After careful consideration the R&G Group felt that introducing postal votes need only delay the deadline for signing up as LINK members and nominating candidates for the Executive

Committee by one week. R&G felt this was a reasonable change of timetable which would not delay the actual elections. R&G recommend the introduction of postal voting.

Single transferrable voting

Whilst the R&G recognise that this system is recommended by the Electoral reform Society and others as being the most effective way of voters influencing the outcome of elections, the R&G did not recommend its use for the Executive elections on 19 January. R&G felt that voting for a 12 person Executive from what is likely to be a large number of nominations was already complicated and that asking members to put the 12 candidates in a preferred order would be unreasonable. The R&G do not recommend the use of STV in this forthcoming election.

Tied Voting

In the event of more than one candidate receiving the same number of votes resulting in a tie for a place on the Executive, the R&G recommend that the Chair calls for a show of hands from LINK members present at the meeting to decide between those two tied candidates.

Independent Scrutineer

The R&G recommended that the IE ask the Host to find an independent scrutineer. In the first instance the R&G recommend use of the Electoral Reform Society at a cost of no more than £200. However in the event of this not being possible the R&G recommend the Host find someone suitable from the Council, the PCT, or similar to undertake the job on a voluntary basis.

Other minor procedural and practical changes

The R&G Group accepted the comments and solutions recommended mostly by Mike Grahn and recommend that the IE accept the changes now incorporated into the various papers and highlighted in yellow.

In summary the R&G Group recommend the IE adopts the proposed nomination and election procedures as amended in these papers.

VM 6 November 2008