

# Briefing paper – National Assembly for Wales elections 2016



Ahead of the National Assembly elections in 2016, WCVA has invited the Welsh Conservatives, Welsh Labour, Welsh Liberal Democrats, Wales Green Party, Plaid Cymru and the UK Independence Party to submit relevant information detailing the timescales and process for election manifesto arrangements.

We asked for specific detail on the following:

- Who is coordinating the preparation of the manifesto?
- If appropriate, leads for different policy areas?
- What to submit and word length?
- Dates by which any ideas or proposals should be submitted?
- Any consultation processes or consultation events that may be planned?

Here is the resulting report. At the end of this briefing paper you will find links to the Electoral Commission's guidance on lobbying.

## Welsh Conservatives

We are seeking the views of organisations, group and individuals right across Wales, as we progress with innovative policy creation to complement the work we have undertaken over the course of the last four years and beyond.

We would warmly welcome your contribution to this continuing work. You may wish to draw our attention to existing policies or you may wish to highlight other areas that you feel require added attention.

Responses are welcome in any format, though we ask that you try not to exceed 1,500 words. We will respond to your submission and will conduct further research in the next few months, including meetings and round table discussions.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you need further clarification at this point. Although there is no formal deadline, responses by the end of July would be very much appreciated. All submissions will be treated as confidential unless you state otherwise and participation in this process is in no way an endorsement of Welsh Conservative Party Policy.

Recent detail on a selection of our policies can be viewed at [www.welshconservatives.com/policy](http://www.welshconservatives.com/policy).

Contact: Care of Suzy Davies AM: [suzy.davies@wales.gov.uk](mailto:suzy.davies@wales.gov.uk).

Welsh Labour

## **Consultation process**

Discussion papers ('Challenge 2020' papers) were released at the Welsh Labour conferences in 2013 and 2014 covering a broad range of topic areas. Each paper was released for debate in local parties, amongst our affiliates and for discussion with other interested stakeholders.

Responses to the consultation papers were considered by the Welsh Policy Forum that meets in November each year and which prepares a report for the following Welsh Labour Conference.

## **Next steps**

Following the General Election of May 2015 the focus has shifted to a final period of pre- manifesto consultation. This will be launched in early July and run until early October 2015.

Material will be posted to the Welsh Labour website at [www.welshlabour.org.uk](http://www.welshlabour.org.uk) and copies of the consultation report made available to stakeholders.

The political lead for the manifesto discussions will be Ken Skates AM. Working alongside the Welsh Policy Forum, Ken will have a key role in meeting with stakeholders and drawing upon the breadth of ideas that are held by partners across Wales.

## **How decisions are made - The Welsh Policy Forum**

The formal policy discussions and decisions are taken by the Welsh Policy Forum that has members drawn from constituency Labour Parties, the Welsh Labour affiliates (trade unions etc) Welsh Ministers, MPs and AMs.

The results of this summer and autumn of consultation work will be reported to a final meeting of the Welsh Policy Forum in November 2015.

Following that Policy Forum the manifesto for the 2016 Assembly elections will be prepared. As usual the manifesto will be launched at some point in the period before the elections of May 2016.

## **Useful information and who to contact**

The work is coordinated via the Welsh Labour office at 1 Cathedral Road, Cardiff, CF11 9HA. Contact the Welsh Labour Policy Officer, Martin Eaglestone, to set up

meetings relating to the 2016 manifesto. Email [martin\\_eaglestone@labour.org.uk](mailto:martin_eaglestone@labour.org.uk) or call 029 2087 7708.

Welsh Liberal Democrats

### **What to submit**

We welcome any and all proposals for new policies or legislation. Please submit a proposal, preferably one and no more than two sides of A4, including a brief (two sentence) explanation of the core idea, a brief description of the 'problem' your policy would solve, a more in-depth explanation of the policy and its implications, evidence background and references, and justification. Please provide as much information as possible regarding financial cost of the proposal. Providing a fully-costed proposal greatly improves its chance of being accepted for our manifesto.

### **How decisions are made**

The Welsh Liberal Democrat party conference approves the broad themes of the manifesto in a vote or series of votes at our conference. The National Policy Committee does the detailed work of writing the policies, developing the manifesto, providing costings and determining spending priorities - all according to the decisions of conference. Parliamentarians are an important part of the process in providing their ideas and knowledge.

### **Who is coordinating the preparation of the manifesto?**

Staff: Morgan Griffith-David, Welsh Liberal Democrat Policy Officer, is leading on our policy and manifesto development process. His duties include leading on preparation of policy papers and manifestos (including research, drafting and external consultation), supporting Policy Committee and Party representatives, and developing a strategic policy development plan.

Policy Committee: Alec Dauncey, Chair of our National Policy Committee. The National Policy Committee is responsible for overall policy development including: oversight of the process; producing policy and consultation papers; and drafting and costing manifestos.

Assembly Group: Peter Black AM has been appointed the Assembly Group's Manifesto Coordinator, responsible for overseeing policy and manifesto development alongside Policy Committee, and will represent the Assembly Group on Policy Committee.

Assembly Members also lead on developing policies in their own areas.

- Kirsty Williams AM - Health and social care
- Eluned Parrott AM - Economy, business and enterprise, transport, science and technology, Europe.
- William Powell AM - Energy, environment, planning, sustainable development, farming and rural affairs.
- Aled Roberts AM - Education (schools and colleges), universities, childcare, young people, older people, Welsh language.

- Peter Black AM - Local Government, communities, housing, finance, equalities, social justice, heritage, culture and sport.

### **Dates by which any ideas or proposals should be submitted**

Please send all submissions by the end of August 2015. This will help us feed them into the manifesto themes motion which will be discussed at our Autumn Conference.

Our party makes policy through our twice-annual Conferences where our members vote on policy - as such, it is important to meet these timescales, and proposals can be worked into motions and papers already within our policy development process. So the earlier, the better for policy proposals.

By the end of 2015, a preliminary manifesto draft should be in place.

### **Consultation processes or consultation events**

We welcome suggestions from voluntary sector organisations. We will also be consulting online, through suggestions areas on our website and social media, over the coming months. We can also organise Policy Roundtable events for groups of organisations to discuss specific policy areas in greater depth with the Welsh Liberal Democrat spokesperson or members of Policy Committee. If you believe there is scope for such a roundtable in your policy area please get in touch. This can be a good way to get time with spokespersons during their hectic diaries. We can also organise them at our twice-yearly Conferences - if you would like to attend Conference as an observer and feed in to these sessions, please get in touch with Ian Walton, Party Manager, on [ian.Walton@welshlibdems.org.uk](mailto:ian.Walton@welshlibdems.org.uk) to organise it.

### **Who you should send it to**

The main contact point for all external organisations is Morgan Griffith-David, Welsh Liberal Democrat Policy Officer. He will put you in touch with other representatives. [Morgan.Griffith-David@welshlibdems.org.uk](mailto:Morgan.Griffith-David@welshlibdems.org.uk)

Morgan is happy to meet for informal and confidential discussions on the process or how best to feed in - just get in touch. You can also speak directly to Assembly Members for ongoing policy work in their portfolio.

## **Wales Green Party**

We welcome ideas and consultation with voluntary organisations.

We have policy experts across different areas who are currently working on our Policy for a Sustainable Society in Wales (PfSSiW). This Policy will be adopted at our AGM in November and then key elements of it will be used for our Assembly manifesto.

We are open to any types of submission, but preferably maximum two pages of A4, briefing outlining concerns and including proposed manifesto pledge.

Please send any proposals by 1 November 2015 in order to be considered for inclusion in our PfSSiW.

All contact should be sent via Louise Davies, Wales Organiser, [louisedavies@walesgreenparty.com](mailto:louisedavies@walesgreenparty.com), 01497 820069 in the first instance.

Plaid Cymru

### **What to submit**

Up to two sides of A4 setting out your priorities for the next Welsh Government. We would suggest organisations note their highest three priorities, offer approximate costings and suggestions as to how this will be implemented (e.g. legislation, regulation or government policy), the length of time required to implement and any positive or negative aspects to the proposal.

If you would like to discuss your ideas in detail with our policy team then contact the Head of Policy, Dr Ian Johnson, on 07738 182867 to organise a phone conversation or face-to-face meeting. Ian Johnson is the manifesto author and contact point for outside organisations.

We would expect manifesto proposals to be made to us sooner rather than later, as this will increase the likelihood of their inclusion because it allows for clarification and agreement within the party.

However, we do recognise that policy development is not an easy process for all organisations. If you do not currently have the above information then please contact us and we will be pleased to discuss your proposals in greater detail.

### **Who you should send it to?**

Dr Ian Johnson, Head of Policy – [ian.johnson@plaidcymru.org](mailto:ian.johnson@plaidcymru.org)  
Heledd Brooks-Jones, Policy Coordinator – [heleddbrosks-jones@plaidcymru.org](mailto:heleddbrosks-jones@plaidcymru.org)

### **What's the timescale?**

As soon as possible. If you've got a good idea, don't sit on it!

### **How decisions are made**

The Plaid Cymru manifesto is agreed by the party's National Executive Committee and National Council, with guidance from the Director of Policy, Head of Policy and party policy spokespeople.

### **Useful information**

Plaid Cymru – the Party of Wales meets stakeholders on a regular basis to discuss policy. If you would like to arrange a meeting then please contact us, using the above details.

If you're attending the Plaid Cymru – Party of Wales conference in October, then please arrange a meeting in advance to discuss your proposals.

## UK Independence Party

Mark Reckless, former UKIP MP for Rochester and Stroud, has agreed to join the UKIP in Wales team as Director of Policy Development. Mark will work with members and other stakeholders to develop our manifesto for the National Assembly election. Over the coming months Mark will also help to select policy area spokespeople who will form our 'front-bench' team if UKIP is elected to the assembly by the people of Wales. Email [markreckless@hotmail.com](mailto:markreckless@hotmail.com).

## Further information

Charities spending more than £20,000 in England or £10,000 in Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland on 'regulated activities' must register with the Electoral Commission as non-party campaigners. These activities include the production of election materials, media events and 'canvassing that can 'reasonably be regarded as intended to influence voters to vote for or against political parties or categories of candidates'.

You can find official Electoral Commission guidance around the Lobbying Act [here](#).

**WCVA**  
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