

## **Results of the Consultation on the Proposal for Select Committees – Draft Protocol**

*At the October National Council Alan Ransome (Cleveland) submitted a paper proposing the establishment of National Council Select Committees. The paper is on the National Council page of the website. Councillors raised queries as to how this would operate and consideration of the paper was adjourned for a draft protocol to be produced.*

*I circulated a draft protocol on 28 October (reproduced below for ease of reference) and invited Councillors to suggest amendments. Nineteen responses were received and these are summarised in italics below the draft protocol.*

*Discussion of Alan's paper will be resumed at the January National Council. I envisage taking the discussion in two parts. First Alan's paper and then, if that is approved, the draft protocol.*

### **Draft Protocol**

1. Any National Councillor may propose the establishment of a select committee by sending the National Council Chairman their proposal, suggested terms of reference and possible members. Similarly the Board or (with the CEOs approval) a staff member may request the establishment of a select committee.
2. The National Council Chairman will request the office to circulate the proposal to all national councillors who may:
  - a. indicate whether or not they support the proposal;
  - b. suggest changes or additions to the terms of reference;
  - c. put themselves forward for membership or request the opportunity to provide oral or written evidence to the select committee if it is established.
3. The majority of select committee members should be national councillors but any other TTE member may be invited to be a member.
4. The purpose of a select committee is to investigate a topic or issue, produce a report covering the current situation and provide recommendations for the best way forward.
5. Select committees are intended for issues where there is no simple solution. If a councillor already has a clear view as to the way forward it is more appropriate to put forward a motion for Council.
6. A councillor proposing a select committee should consult MAG through its chairman. If MAG is interested in the issue they should discuss how to avoid duplication. For example National Council could invite MAG members to join its committee or vice versa.
7. The relevant staff member(s) should be invited, through the Head of Operations and Governance, to discuss the issue with the select committee through a Zoom call.

8. The National Council Chairman will make a provisional decision as to whether a select committee should be established and if so the chairman, membership and terms of reference. This will be reported to the next Council. Council may reverse the provisional decision or make amendments to it – for example to add members.

9. On completion of its work a select committee should present a written report with recommendations to the National Council Chairman and Secretary in sufficient time for it to be included with the papers for discussion at the next Council.

10. If the Select Committee report is approved by Council the report and its recommendations would be submitted to the Board for consideration.

### **Summary of Responses Received**

*R1. A limit should be agreed for a maximum number of Select Committees.*

*R2. In theory I am in favour of a limited number of Select Committees, but I am concerned with possible duplication with MAG, although this is allowed for in the draft protocol. I am also concerned with Councillors who are not included in a select committee will be left out and still need to be communicated with regularly on progress.*

*R3. I am happy with the draft protocol. I think we should now try it and see how it goes. We can then amend the protocol in the light of experience.*

*R4. I agree with the proposal for the select committees.*

*R5. I agree with the proposal for select committees.*

*R6. I have read the draft protocol and have not suggestions for amendments. Indeed I think it is spot on.*

*R7. I find the proposal very good and have nothing to change.*

*R8. Please consider amending item 4 – replace “investigate” with “consider”.*

*R9. In principal I am in favour of the proposal that National Council should be able to commission work on subjects that it believes are important. However, as part of the discussion at the last NC meeting it was raised that MAG have the processes in place to commission work suggested / requested by its stakeholders. My view is that National Council could be one of MAG's stakeholders and could make requests / recommendations on work it would like MAG to undertake. MAG then prioritises and delivers the work through its own work programme and on completion of the work reports back to National Council. I think this process would avoid any duplication of effort and MAG could co-opt National Councillors onto the particular work activity of that was appropriate.*

*R10. Should a National Councillor wanting to propose a Select Committee need to have the support of a minimum number of other Councillors - say 4 or 5.*

*R11. In point 5 I am in favour of –*

*“If a councillor already has a clear view as to the way forward it is more appropriate to put forward a motion for Council”.*

*R12. A suggested amendment to para 6, 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence – If MAG is interested in the issue they should discuss how to avoid duplication and whether the select Committee or MAG is to front the project in question. For example National Council could invite MAG members to join a Select Committee on subjects initiated by National Council or vice-versa MAG to invite National Council members on to their initiatives.*

*R13. Comments on specific clauses in the protocol:*

*“3. The majority of select committee members should be national councillors but any other TTE member may be invited to be a member.”*

- *Should this be expanded to say “but any other TTE member, appropriate TTE employee, or other specialist adviser, may be invited to be a member.”.*

*“6. A councillor proposing a select committee should consult MAG through its chairman. If MAG is interested in the issue they should discuss how to avoid duplication. For example National Council could invite MAG members to join its committee or vice versa”*

- *isn't this cart before the horse, shouldn't National Council first decide if it is in favour of the Committee?*

*“7. The relevant staff member(s) should be invited, through the Head of Operations and Governance, to discuss the issue with the select committee through a Zoom call.”*

- *See 3 above, expand 3 to include this consultation if thought appropriate.*

*R14. Not in agreement with select committees. Would seem to duplicate the role of MAG.*

*R15. As written the only issue I have is with the '3' - who decides which non National Councillors should be invited to join any particular sub-committee? Why should 'outsiders' be invited to what is meant to be National Council business? Certainly anyone can be consulted but I question their right to be on the actual sub-committee. When it comes to functional issues, that's one of the intended roles of the MAG. All another level of bureaucracy for those unhappy with how the Board operates.*

*R16. I think this would be very good for the sport and Council and we should be looking to set this up as soon as possible.*

*R17. I am in favour of some smaller, specialist NC Groups, to deal with specific topics. These of course would report back to the main National Council Meetings in the first instance.*

*R18. It is the view that a Select Committee should only be considered if there is no clear decision on a proposal put before the NC in the first instance. That is where there has been*

*debate and where the identified pros and cons need to be considered more for a way forward.*

*The MAG representative at the NC Meeting can then indicate support (or otherwise) the set-up of a Select Committee on the basis of no duplication with MAG activity and relevance.*

*The proposed Protocol would need to be modified to reflect the above view. In particular paragraphs 5 and 6 suitably modified and moved to be 1 & 2.*

*An alternative approach which has been suggested is that the MAG could refer some of its workload to the NC for input or draw on NC members to assist on their Working Groups. I believe this has occurred in a small way but perhaps could be expanded and made more formal.*

*R19. I am unlikely to be proposing an amendment to the protocol as I am concerned about adding yet another tier of bureaucracy. Surely, there is no reason why National Council or MAG could not ask a working group of experts to meet and then report back their findings without having to set up a system of Select Committees? I fear that these may turn into rather cliquey groups who may have expertise but may not be forward looking or cooperative in their working with the Board. If it is carried, I hope I will be proved wrong.*