1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To nominate Council guests to attend a Royal Garden Party in 2017.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2.1 The Local Government Association (LGA) has been asked to submit to the Lord Chamberlain’s Office a list of the names of representatives (drawn from authorities in membership of the LGA in England and Wales) who are recommended for invitation to this year’s Royal Garden Parties.

2.2 Places have been allocated on a population basis and Wrexham’s allocation is four places.

2.3 Nominations must be submitted to the LGA by no later than Friday, 27 January 2016, although the LGA have indicated that applications are dealt with on a first-come, first-served basis should any one date be oversubscribed. *It should be noted that the only practical date for this Authority is Thursday, 1 June and again, the LGA have confirmed that this is the case with other Authorities so early submission would be to this Authority’s advantage.

2.4 Customarily the Civic Head and Consort/Mayoress have represented the Council along with a nominated Member & spouse/partner.
3 RECOMMENDATION

3.1 That the incoming Mayor, Councillor Bernie McCann and the incoming Mayoress, Mrs Kath McCann, along with one of the nominated Councillors and spouse/partner, represent the Council at one of the 2017 Royal Garden Parties.

3.2 That this matter be dealt with as an urgent item of business in accordance with Standing Order 43(1) of the Council's Standing Orders.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

To ensure that the Council is represented at one of the 2017 Royal Garden Parties and nominations are submitted before the required deadline.

4 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

4.1 The LGA has invited the Council to put forward nominations for invitation to the Royal Garden Parties which will be held at Buckingham Palace on Tuesday, 16 May, Thursday 23 May or Thursday, 1 June 2017. It should be noted that the only practical date for this Authority is Thursday, 1 June.

4.2 Places have been allocated on a population basis and Wrexham’s allocation is 4 places.

4.3 It is customary for serving Civic Heads and their Consorts to be included in authorities’ nominations.

4.4 The advice of the Lord Chamberlain’s office is that all nominated guests should be accompanied unless he/she specifically requests otherwise and should not have previously attended a Royal Garden Party. The Lord Chamberlain takes the view that invitations are in recognition of past service and it is, therefore, appropriate that outgoing Members, rather than those newly elected, should be invited to attend.

4.5 Nominations should be submitted by Friday, 27 January 2017 and the LGA advise that late nominations will not be accepted. *See note at 2.3.

4.6 All Group Leaders/Members of the Council were consulted and requested to submit nominations by Monday, 19 December 2016. Nominations were received for Cllr Derek and Mrs Gaynor Wright, Cllr Hugh Jones and guest, Cllr David Kelly and guest, Cllr Mark Owens and guest, Cllr Phil Wynn and guest and Cllr Steve Wilson and guest.

4.7 Policy Framework – The selection of nominees for invitation to the Royal Garden Parties is delegated matter for determination by the Leader of the Council.
4.8 **Budget** – All the expenses associated with this visit will be met from the civic expenses/Members expenses budget.

4.9 **Legal** – This matter poses no legal implications for the Authority

4.10 **Staffing** – The nomination of representatives to attend the Royal Garden Parties will pose no staffing implications for the Authority.

4.11 **Equality/Human Rights** – This matter does not present any equality or diversity implications.

4.12 **Risks** – not applicable

5. **CONSULTATION**

5.1 All Group Leaders/Members of the Council have been consulted for nominations.

6. **EVALUATION OF OPTIONS**

6.1 Not applicable

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<th>BACKGROUND PAPERS</th>
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