

MAYOR OF LONDON

London Strategic Migration Partnership

Minutes of the London Strategic Migration Partnership

18 July 2013

3-5pm

City Hall

CR1

Present

KM	Kit Malthouse	Deputy Mayor of London (Chair)
PW	Paul Wylie	Home Office (speaker)
RB	Richard Bell	Skills Funding Agency
AL	Andrew Lawton	Refugee Council
HH	Hugh Harris	London First
IA	Iman Achara	MRAP
LK	Lela Kogbara	NRPF (Islington Council)
MH	Mubin Haq	London Funders
SA	Simin Azimi	MRAP
SD	DSU Stuart Dark	MPS
PT	Paul Tucker	JCP
ER	Eithne Rynne	LVSC
DF	Doug Flight	London Councils
PS	Paul D'Silva	Home Office

In attendance

TD	Terry Day	GLA
JL	James Lee	GLA (speaker)
RS	Roudy Shafie	GLA (speaker)
AM	Amna Mahmoud	GLA
MH	Michael Heanue	GLA
MH	Mark Hilton	Programme Director, Education & Employment, London First
MJ	Matthew Jaffa	Senior Development Manager for London, Federation of Small Businesses
PR	Philippa Rouse	Home Office UKVI (speaker)

Apologies

PP	Paul Plant	NHS London
MP	Cllr Marie Pye	London Councils
SW	Stephen Watson	MPS
LH	Laurie Heselden	SERTUC
MW	Maurice Wren	Refugee Council
JS	Judith Smyth	Deputy Director in the Regional AoC team
FB	Fariha Bhatti	MRAP
VL	Val Lowman	BeOnsite
SM	Sean McKee	Federation of Small Businesses

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1. Welcome and apologies

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting including the new members; Lela Kogbara – Assistant Chief Executive (Strategy & Community Partnerships), L.B. Islington representing, No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF), Eithne Rynne- Chief Executive London Voluntary Service Council (LVSC) and the invited guests.

2. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

2.1. Minutes of the last meeting of 7 March 2013 agreed as an accurate record.

Matters arising from the last meeting:

2.2.1 On the issue of delays in issuing National Insurance Numbers (NINo) to newly recognised refugees - the situation have improved. A number of issues during the process were identified. HO agreed to resolve them working with partners.

2.2.2 The ONS circulated request to gather information from those who used the census data to make a case for funding of data in the future.

2.2.3 Paul Whyllie of Home Office Immigration Enforcement confirmed receiving a letter from the LSMP Chair, Munira Mirza, asking for a review of charging refugees replacing an Immigration Status Document with Biometric Resident Permits (BRP). The current policy of charging refugees for a BRP outside of settlement protection applications will continue, but a further meeting between the GLA and the Home Office will review the policy impact.

3. Chair's update

- 3.1. The Chair is covering for Munira Mirza who is currently on maternity leave.
- 3.2. The GLA is updating its position on immigration for the autumn.

4. Update on change from UKBA to the Home Office UK Visa and Immigration Service and Immigration Enforcement divisions

Paul Whyllie, Director for London and South East, Home Office Immigration Enforcement, updated members on the new Home Office structures after the disbanding of UKBA. A number of staff were redirected to the enforcement division. HO is working with the MPS on Operation Nexus and they are promoting Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR). The need for engagement with the voluntary sector remains a priority.

5. Operation Nexus update report

DSU Stuart Dark, OCU Commander Metropolitan Police Service updated members on the outcome of Operation Nexus. The operation was noted has having shown successful results. The importance of engaging with local authorities and the voluntary sector was noted.

6. The London Enterprise Panel: synergies with LSMP

6.1. The Chair introduced the LEP and the Mayor's Jobs and Growth Plan for London.

6.2. James Lee and Roudy Shafie, GLA, highlighted how the LSMP business plan supports the priorities under skills and employment, SME support and science and technology. The importance of the representation of the LVSC on the LEP was raised as they are coordinating an employment support service. It was suggested that the contribution of migrants to growth is to be considered.

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6.3. The Chair informed members of the Mayor's plan to establish an SME club as a communication tool, through which ethnic and cultural based issues could be explored including access to finance.

7. Reaching out to SMEs on Home Office visa processes

- 7.1. Philippa Rouse, Home Office UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI), highlighted UKVI's efforts to address the challenges faced by SMEs in accessing visa systems. UKVI has launched a business help desk and is working with the LSMP to pilot an enhanced engagement strategy, which includes an online toolkit and e-mail helpline for SMEs hosted by the GLA. If the pilot with the LSMP is successful, UKVI will explore a wider roll out with other RSMPs and other third parties with access to SMEs.
- 7.2. **RS** updated members that the GLA is undertaking a wider programme of work to support SMEs as part of the LEP jobs and growth strategy. As part of that, it will respond to feedback from fast growing SMEs that they face barriers in accessing information and support on getting visas for key staff. It was also pointed out that there is a need for connection and engagement with SME at local level and that local authority communications with local businesses can support information distribution, particularly on responsibilities around right to work checks.
- 7.3. The Chair endorsed the project and suggested it report back the findings of the pilot in March.

8. Strategic Approaches to English language learning in London

- 8.1. James Lee, GLA updated members on the LSMP's strategic work on English language learning.
- 8.2. Members pointed out the importance of English language for getting a job, progressing in work and for wider integration, the potential for employer incentives and the value of the voluntary sector in supporting learning at work.
- 8.3. **JL** informed members that the GLA has submitted an application for the European Integration Funding in June to support school-based English language learning for mothers to get them more involved in schools. The GLA secured match funding from the Mayor's London Schools Excellence Fund. If successful, the project delivery will run from February 2014-June 2015.
- 8.4. It was suggested that ESOL to be linked to the welfare reforms and the introduction of the universal credit.

9. MRAP concerns on tackling rogue landlords

Members were informed that additional resources were allocated to local authorities to tackle rogue landlords.

10. LSMP business plan Progress Report

This report is for information. No queries were raised.

11. No AOB was raised