

MAYOR OF LONDON

London Strategic Migration Partnership

Minutes of the London Strategic Migration Partnership

14 November 2013

10am -12pm

City Hall

CR5

Present

KM	Kit Malthouse	Deputy Mayor of London (Chair)
RB	Richard Bell	Skills Funding Agency
IA	Iman Achara	MRAP
MH	Mubin Haq	London Funders
SA	Simin Azimi	MRAP
SD	DSU Stuart Dark	MPS
ER	Eithne Rynne	LVSC
PT	Paul Tucker	JCP
DF	Doug Flight	London Councils
PD	Paul D'Silva	Home Office Immigration Enforcement
MW	Mike Wells	UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI)
ND	Nicola Dandridge	Universities UK
LH	Laurie Heselden,	SERTUC
MJ	Matthew Jaffa	London Federation of Small Businesses
FB	Fariha Bhatti	MRAP
VL	Val Lowman	BeOnsite
MW	Maurice Wren	Refugee Council
JD	John Dickie	London First

In attendance

BJ	Brian Johnson	BIS (speaker)
PC	Peter Cunnane	City of London Corporation
KM	Kevin McCarthy	London and Partners
JA	Jo Attwooll	Universities UK
TD	Terry Day	GLA
JL	James Lee	GLA
RS	Roudy Shafie	GLA
AM	Amna Mahmoud	GLA

Apology

MP	Cllr Marie Pye	London Councils
SW	Stephen Watson	MPS
LK	Lela Kogbara	NRPF (Islington Council)
MW	Judith Smyth	Deputy Director in the Regional AoC team
PW	Paul Wylie	Home Office Immigration Enforcement (HOIE)
PP	Paul Plant	NHS London

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1. Welcome and apologies

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting including the new members; Mike Wells, UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI); Nicola Dandridge, Universities UK; Matthew Jaffa, London Federation of Small Businesses; and John Dickie, London First. He noted apologies.

2. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

2.1. Minutes of the last meeting of 18 July 2013 agreed as an accurate record

2.2. Matters arising from the last meeting:

2.2.1 Supporting SMEs with visa sponsorship process - the online toolkit and helpline was launched on 23rd September on www.London.gov.uk/sme-visa-support. It will run for 3 months and an evaluation will be carried out early next year to evaluate the tools for on-going support for SMEs.

3. Chair's update

3.1. **European Integration Fund** - the GLA's bid for EIF funding for English language support in London schools has been successful. The GLA has opened a funding round as part of the London Schools Excellence Fund to allow schools and partnerships with schools to bid for money to strengthen the skills of qualified and trainee teachers, and/or improve the English language skills of non-EU mothers or carers.

3.2. **International Education Council working group on visas** - The Chair has agreed to lead a BIS working group on visa barriers to growing the UK's education export offer. This is part of BIS's wider strategy to boost the sector, which is detailed under agenda item 4

3.3. **Meeting with Mark Harper, Minister for Immigration** - The Chair met with The Minister on 28 October, who agreed to renew the London Strategic Migration Partnership grant. He was positive about the group's purpose for greater joined up working.

The Chair has also asked the Minister for further information on the Home Office Immigration Enforcement (HOIE) Chinatown raids.

4. BIS International Education Strategy and what it means for London

In July 2013, the Department for Business Innovation and Skills launched its first strategy to expand the UK's education exports industry. International education is a strong contributor to the London economy.

4.1 Brian Johnson from BIS presented the objectives of the strategy to expand the UK's education exports industry and what it means for London. He estimated the total education exports in 2011 as £17.4 billion and that the UK is the 2nd most popular destination for Higher Education of international students.

4.2 Nicola Dandridge of the Universities UK presented the challenges for the sector and London. This included the trend in reduction in the number of the international students and the lack of coordination on the immigration issues. The value of the requirement for some international students to register with the police was questioned. MRAP members highlighted the need for equal welcome to all students regardless of country of origin and the importance of student experience.

Action1: The Chair will write to the Minister for Immigration, Mark Harper, asking for the findings of a review into police registration for some international students and options for collecting the information differently.

5. **LSMP project to improve compliance on preventing illegal working** - Roudy Shafie of the GLA highlighted the fact that the multitude of immigration statuses and documents affects the

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employers' confidence to carry out their responsibility with regard to recruiting migrants. Last year as part of the business plan the GLA ran workshops to address the need of SMEs for better support and information. Additional workshops to be delivered in the new year. GLA want to support UKVI to explore a sustainable solution.

Action 2: MW to update on the outcome/cost of the enforcement activities so far including the level of engagement of SMEs with the guidance.

Action 3: GLA to set up a one off working group to explore options for addressing the problem more sustainably.

6. Update on increasing access to English Language learning

6.1 Richard Bell, Skills Funding Agency provided an update on the proposed Government mandate for job seekers to enroll immediately onto English Language classes if it's assessed as a skills need. It was highlighted by MRAP members that clients are supported by organisations to fill in their application which may have adverse impact on the actual assessment of the need.

6.2 James Lee, GLA, gave an update on progress against the GLA objective of increasing access to English language learning in London with focus on 2 strands of work:

1. Maximizing allocation to London from the new European funding stream starting in 2015: the Asylum and Migration Fund
2. Implementing the findings of the research which the LSMP undertook into increasing access to learning English for those in low skilled, low paid work.

Action 4: GLA organise a meeting of key stakeholders across London to develop strategic and co-ordinated approaches to maximising European Asylum and Migration Fund (AMF) resources for London. This includes potential sources of match-funding.

7 - Migrant and Refugee Advisory Panel request for Operation Nexus update

Stuart Dark, MPS, provided update and data on Operation Nexus including resources. SD highlighted the joint work with the Polish and Romanian police and the possibility to extend to Lithuanian. The MPS will be giving evidence on operation Nexus at the next MOPAC challenge on 6th December.

8 – LSMP half-year report – for information

The LSMP half year report submitted to the Home Office in October.

No queries were raised

9 – AOB

9.1 Date of next London Strategic Migration Partnership is on Thursday 13 March 201, to be confirmed.

9.2 MRAP have not received a reply to their letter to the Mayor of London asking to meet with him about the proposed requirements for landlords and frontline health services to carry out status checks.

Action 5: Officers to follow up the reply.