

# MAYOR OF LONDON

## Minutes of the London Strategic Migration Partnership

10 – 11.30am

11 March 2015

City Hall, CR4

### Present

MM	Munira Mirza	Deputy Mayor of London (Chair)
MWe	Mike Wells	UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI)
DW	David Warner	London Funders
LK	Lela Kogbara	NRPF (Islington Council)
JS	Judith Smyth	AoC
MH	Mark Hilton	London First
MH	Mulat Haregot	MRAP
MJ	Matthew Jaffa	Federation of Small Businesses
MWr	Maurice Wren	Refugee Council
NR	Nazek Ramadan	MRAP
PC	Philip Clifford	London Councils
SA	Simin Azimi	MRAP
VL	Val Lowman	BeOnsite
PT	Pual Tucker	JCP

### In attendance

NiH	Nick Hughes	MPS
AL	Alicia Loannou	UKVI
KM	Kevin McCarthy,	London & Partners
		MPS
AC	Amanda Coyle	GLA
SG	Shanthi Gunsekera	GLA
AM	Amna Mahmoud	GLA

### Apologies

ER	Eithne Rynne	LVSC
MF	Mick Forteach	MPS
LH	Laurie Heselden	SERTUC

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## 1. Welcome and apologies

1.1 The Chair welcomed members to the meeting

## 2. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

2.1. Minutes of the last meeting of 26 November 2015 were agreed as an accurate record

2.2. Matters arising from the last meeting:

2.2.1 (p2) the Home Office update on the progress of Asylum Help service has been circulated

2.2.2 (p3) GLA Housing team will be involved in future discussions on the potential impact of Landlord Checking in London so that risks are identified and mitigated once more evaluation outcomes and clarity on way forward is available.

2.2.3 (P3) The Home Office update on outcomes of the Landlord Checking Pilot and roll out plan has been circulated to members in March 2015

2.2.4 (P4) invitation for the GLA-Home Office event on visa routes for the cultural sector (17th March) was sent to LSMP members who expressed interest

2.2.5 (p4) a report from UKVI on the barriers to take up of BRPs and how these may be addressed including insight from MRAP has been circulated

2.2.6 The Home Office update on illegally working migrants in London has been circulated

2.2.7 The evaluation of operation Skybreaker is currently going through internal sign off at HOIE and will be shared once signed off

**Action 1:** UKVI to share the findings of the evaluation of Skybreaker when available

**Action 2:** MPS to provide a written update on Operation Nexus with statistics

**Action 3:** London Councils and NRPF to look into promotion of use of local authorities' Emergency Welfare Schemes to fund legacy document holders' BRP applications

## 3. Chair's update

The Chair updated on that:

3.1. GLA and Home Office hosting the event on 17th March at City Hall for art and culture organisations to profile existing visa routes is an excellent example of partnership working to make sure London continues to attract the brightest and the best

3.2. The GLA is developing a framework for commissioning pan-London rough sleeping services for the period 2016-20. The framework will seek to take into account the growth in the non-UK national population of London's rough sleepers. The minutes of the Mayor's rough sleeping working group is on the GLA website. Refugee Council offered to share their experience to support framework development.

3.3. The Federation of Small Businesses offered to support dissemination of Home Office changes that impact small businesses through their network.

3.4. Munira Mirza updated members of the progress of the LSMP review

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3.3.2 Simin Azimi requested that the integration work to be guided by *London Enriched*. Munira confirmed the Mayor remains committed to integration and *London Enriched*, the Mayor's integration strategy.

3.3.3 UKVI confirmed that the Tech sector and SMEs are concentrated in London and pointed that taking these into consideration is useful

## 4. Migration challenges for Local Authorities

Philip Clifford, London Councils, presented the migration challenges for local authorities including that migration is changing London but local councils are changing too; austerity is likely to continue and NRPF is a particular challenge for London; migration can add to service pressures; migrants can have distinct needs and can drive service provision. Members highlighted the positive impact of migration and acknowledged the need to find practical responses to the challenges faced by local authorities. Munira invited London Councils to return to LSMP with specific calls for Mayoral support to make immigration work for London

**Action 4:** London Councils to suggest how the Mayor and the LSMP can support the boroughs effectively addressing immigration challenges.

## 5 AMIF Integration Needs

5.1 Shanthi Gunsekera updated members on AMIF funding

5.2 Members approved the lead role of the GLA on this work on behalf of LSMP.

5.3.1 Munira invited members to join her in her visits to English language - Key for Integration programmes

5.3.2 UKVI advised that the distribution of AMIF funding still to be confirmed

**Action 5:** GLA to liaise with Refugee Council and London Funders to arrange visit to the EIF- funded English Key to Integration projects

## 6 Visitor Visa Simplification

6.1 Alicia laonnou presented the recent changes to simplify the visitor visas. The number of routes was reduced from 15 to 4 routes.

6.2 An online application was piloted in China. Positive feedback was received. Evaluation of the pilot is underway and will inform potential roll out in other countries

6.3 Munira shared that Mannick Govinda, on behalf of the London Cultural Strategy Group welcomed the changes

6.4 London and Partners offered to support dissemination of these changes

## 7 AOB

7.1 Refugee Council raised the need for resourcing face to face Migrant Help services to support the most vulnerable.

7.1 Refugee Council requested future presentation from the Home Office on detention centres.

**Action 6:** GLA to discuss with Home Office and Refugee Council how to take this forward

Next meeting 22 July 2015