

MAYOR OF LONDON

Minutes of the London Strategic Migration Partnership

2.30– 4.30pm
24 September 2015
City Hall, CR3

Present

MM	Munira Mirza	Deputy Mayor for Education and Culture (Chair)
GL	Gerard Lyons	Chief Economic Advisor
MWe	Mike Wells	UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI)
MB	Cllr Muhammed Butt	London Councils
MH	Mulat Haregot	MRAP
RC	Rita Chadha	MRAP
MJ	Matthew Jaffa	Federation of Small Businesses

In attendance

LH	Laurie Heselden	SERTUC
PG	Peter Green	Home Office
PW	Paul Wylie	Home Office
EK	Ewan Kennedy	Home Office
KA	Dr Katie Arundell	Home Office
CG	Corinne Gregory	DWP
ASB	Andy S.Burton	MPS
MK	Dr Marilena Korkodilos	PHE
RM	Ragan Momen	London Councils
AC	Amanda Coyle	GLA
SM	Sarah Mulley	GLA
SG	Shanthi Gunsekera	GLA
AM	Amna Mahmoud	GLA
JL	James Lee	GLA
ML	Monica Li	GLA

Speakers

JM	Joel Marsden	GLA
VA	Vivienne Avery	GLA
JS	Jon Simmons	Home Office Science
CVS	Carlos Vargas-Silva	Migration Observatory

1. Welcome and Introduction

The Chair welcomed members and speakers to the first of the three themed meetings for this year;

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- 1.1 The meeting objective was to present a picture of migration in London today in order to understand and anticipate present and future strategic opportunities and challenges to London.
- 1.2 The Chair informed members that Gerard Lyons is co-chairing the LSMP meetings and will chair the visas and economic growth meeting in February.
- 1.3 Members introduced themselves.

2. Resettlement of Syrian Refugees

The Chair updated members on the Government's announcements and London's role in helping some of the most vulnerable refugees fleeing war and persecution in Syria:

- 2.1. The Mayor, London Councils and she, as the Chair of the LSMP, held constructive talks with the Home Office, DCLG and boroughs on the resettlement of Syrian refugees.
- 2.2. City Hall and London boroughs will work with Government to enable London to play its part.
- 2.3. The Chair highlighted the fact that there are significant costs associated with resettlement, in particular in London. Whilst all partners welcomed the Government's commitment to meet those costs in the first year they urged the Government to provide clear assurances over funding in future years.
- 2.4. The Chair informed members that the GLA convened an additional meeting with the Migrant and Refugee Advisory Panel to hear from the third sector on London's response.
- 2.5. Members raised the following points:
 - 2.5.1 Clarity from Government and a long-term plan are urgently needed to avoid losing the enthusiasm and goodwill of Londoners.
 - 2.5.2 Jon Simmons responded that he will take these comments back to the Home Office and highlighted that the Home Office is working closely with UNHCR.
 - 2.5.3 The importance of considering the needs of all refugees was also highlighted.
 - 2.5.4 Businesses are also keen to understand how they can help.

The Chair acknowledged the urgency for clarity and confirmed that the Mayor was writing to the Minister for resettlement of Syrian refugees, Richard Harrington MP.

Action 1: Munira to communicate with Local Authorities to understand their role in London response.

Action 2: GLA to continue engaging with London stakeholders, and bring a further update to the November LSMP meeting.

3. Migration Flows and Population in London

- 3.1 The Chair noted the value of developing a comprehensive understanding of migration in London.
- 3.2 Vivienne Avery presented on how population and migration data is used in London policy making and planning and presented a picture of the changing migration patterns and demographic make-up of London over time. She also identified a number of additional data sources that could help provide a more in-depth picture of migration in London today, as regional and local data are currently limited.

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4. London's employment growth and migration

Joel Marsden provided an overview of London's migrant population in relation to other global cities. He also presented a picture of the changing reasons for migration over time and highlighted the increasing importance of work and study as a driver for migration.

Joel presented data on employment of migrants in different sectors of the London economy.

5. Asylum and Refugee data

Jon Simmons presented a summary of the national and London picture on the numbers and origins of asylum seekers.

6. Projecting flows and understanding gaps in data

Carlos Vargas-Silva provided an overview of the Migration Observatory's work to extrapolate data from the 2011 Census to understand migration patterns in London today. He also identified opportunities for further work to incorporate different sources of data to further test and develop local migration data in order to make it more timely and accurate.

Members reinforced the need for better regional/local data and welcomed the data presented by speakers, in particular the Home Office provision of regional asylum data.

Action 3: DWP to further explore potential use of their data to measure local and regional migration trends (including refugees).

Action 4: Home Office to look at what other London data could be produced to inform the LSMP's work.

7. Chair's Update

The Chair updated members on;

7.1 Skills devolution: GLA officers working, with the London boroughs, on the Mayor's skills devolution proposition to Government. The proposition will consider the needs of all learners in London including ESOL.

7.2 Roll out of 'Right to Rent' implementation: the GLA has been invited on to the Home Office consultative panel. Richard Blakeway, Deputy Mayor for Housing, Land and Property, has written to the Home Office highlighting:

7.2.1 The initiative should be rolled out region-by-region and London should be last. This would enable London, as the largest and most complicated of all the UK's rental markets to benefit from lessons learned elsewhere in the country, where pressure on the rental market is less significant.

7.2.2 Turnaround times for Home Office support should reflect the needs of the market.

7.2.3 Access to Biometric Residence Permits (BRPs) must continue to improve.

7.2.4 Appropriate support must be in place to help landlords identify unfamiliar documents.

7.2.5 Home Office must engage fully with organisations representing renters and migrants to ensure that those who have the right to rent in the UK are not hindered from doing so as a result of this scheme.

7.3 The outcome of the Mayor's *English the Key to Integration* project: in total the 13 projects worked with 85 schools in 14 boroughs, 733 teachers received training with 4,470 TCN EAL pupils being supported through guided EAL learning; 982 Third Country National EAL mothers attended ESOL classes and 936 mother involvement activities. The GLA hosted a celebration event and heard evaluation from teachers and beneficiaries.

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8. Minutes from the last meeting and matters arising

The minutes of 11th March 2015 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting and members were updated on the actions.

Paul Wylie gave an update on Operation Skybreaker.

9. AOB

No issues were raised.