



**Ethnic Minority Advisory Group Meeting**  
 Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2007, 3:00pm – 4:30 pm  
 CIPFA, 3 Robert Street, London.

**Notes of meeting with Action Points**

**Attendees:**

Name	Organisation
Iqbal Wahhab (Chair)	Private Business / Entrepreneur
Parvin Ali (Vice Chair)	FATIMA Women's Network
Jonathan Baldrey	Talent At Work
Collet Cork-Hurst	TGWU
Adeeba Malik	QED
Wilf Sullivan	TGWU
Symon Syntain	The Bridge New Deal for Communities
Tanzeen Ahmed	ALT Enterprise, Yorkshire Ltd
Hugh Harris	London First
Helen Wollaston	Equal Opportunities Commission
Nahid Majid	DWP
Janet Hill	DWP
Dan Monzani	DWP
Carol O'Callaghan	DWP
Carol McDonald	DWP
Viv Miller	DWP
Vicky Davies	ECOTEC
<b>Apologies:</b>	
Marcia Roberts	Recruitment and Employment Confederation
Tunde Banjoko	Leap
Faraz Yousufzai	Working Links (Birmingham)
Jeremy Crook	BTEG

**Agenda Item 1- Welcome and Introduction**

1. Iqbal opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

**Agenda Item 2 - Minutes of meetings**

2. Minutes agreed. Matters arising:

**AP1:** The **presentation on funding** which was brought forward from the January meeting should be rescheduled for a future meeting.

**Agenda Item 3 – Chair's Feedback**

3. Iqbal informed the meeting that Symon has resigned as Vice-Chair but has volunteered to lead one of the Focus Groups. Iqbal thanked Symon for his contribution to Group and invited members to put themselves forward for the position.
4. Adeeba gave feedback from the meeting she and Carol McDonald attended with Peter Fanning at the OGC to discussed issues around procurement contracts, in particular on

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monitoring/data collection. Key points:

- It was a very positive meeting and OGC are taking steps in the right direction.
  - Peter agreed that data collection is important and if collected properly could add value to organisations.
  - To work with Kate Nutt - Head of Policy through Procurement at the OGC, to look at a system which will allow wider information on ethnic minority businesses. She will be visiting a supplier diversity - private sector led project company in Leicester to see what lessons can be learnt.
5. Jonathan also mentioned the Suply2Gov business as an example of a company which has a very slick online information system but a 'not so friendly' financial information system. For further information visit [www.supply2gov.uk](http://www.supply2gov.uk).

**AP2:** EMAG members to inform Secretariat if they wish to put themselves forward for the Vice Chair position which has become vacant by Symon's resignation.

### Agenda Item 4 – Presentation: Leitch Review on Skills

6. Janet Hill, Deputy Director in the Welfare to Work Directorate explained what the Government is doing to meet the challenges of the Leitch Review and its recommendations. Key points are shown in her presentation notes. **See attached.**
7. Questions/comments raised:
- The new Employer and Skills Commission should ensure that funding for adult is more effectively used than previously done.
  - DfES did a survey to find out if training for work works. It was found that training models do not work as well as Job brokerage. However, Janet commented that DWP/JCP has evidence to show that training works especially where employers are engaged in the Train to Gain programme. She has promised to get evidence from DfES to shows pilots that are working.
  - There were some reservations about Leitch so Janet invited the group to submit their concerns to Jim Murphy and Phill Hope, DfES Minister with responsibility for the Leitch Review.

**AP3:** Janet to get examples of good practice from DfES.

**AP4:** EMAG to write to Jim Murphy, DWP and Phill Hope, DfES Minister with responsibility for Skills about their concerns.

8. Janet has volunteered to meet with individuals and organisations to discuss and work through any issues.

### Agenda item 5 – Presentation: Update on City Strategy

9. Carol O'Callaghan, Policy Advisor, DWP gave a presentation on current developments on the City Strategy. Vicky Davies, Consultant from ECOTEC was also on hand to answer questions. Notes on presentation **attached.**

10. Following questions/comments/concerns were raised:

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- Concerns about the lack of details from some of the Pathfinders regarding delivery for ethnic minorities and that ECOTEC had to provide feedback on how to strengthen the plans.
- Want to see targets for the different disadvantaged groups, including ethnic minorities and women. Vicky said that targets have not been built in and that decision about how best to spend the money must be devolved to the local administrators.
- What happens if the strategy does not deliver? The point was strongly made that if the programme fails then the £7million that was taken away from the Ethnic Minority Outreach programme would have been in vain.
- Will the information be made available to the public? Yes. This will be made available after the Secretary of State has approved the plans on 2nd April.

**AP5:** ECOTEC to share information/details with EMAG.

**AP6:** EMAG to pull together a paper for the Task Force meeting in April to express concerns.

### Agenda item 6 – EMAG Work Programme and Focus Groups

11. Everyone has signed up to the work programme and the Focus Groups which will reflect the TF work programme. A list of the Focus Groups members, with the Co-ordinator for each group is **attached**.
12. Jonathan has slight reservation about the wording of objective 5 which says, *making Boards with responsibility for closing the employment gap, more representative of ethnic minorities and women* because he felt that a White person can represent minority interests, but agreed that an all White board is not ideal.
13. It was agreed that we should try and get the following speakers for future meetings:
  - Trevor Phillips
  - Jim Murphy
  - Sir Digby Jones
  - Chair of the LSC

### Agenda Item 7 - AOB

14. The Group was disappointed that Jim was unable to attend the meeting and asked the Secretariat to pursue an invitation with him for a future meeting.
15. Attendance at the meeting is poor and Iqbal wants to remind everyone that poor/non attendance to meetings will lead to termination of membership.

**AP7:** Secretariat to inform members who have not attended the last three or more meetings that their membership is being reconsidered and will be replaced by others who have shown interests in joining EMAG.

Minutes prepared by: Viv Miller

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### SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS

	<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>AP 1</b>	To rescheduled funding presentation for the June meeting.	Secretariat	2007	
<b>AP 2</b>	EMAG members to inform Secretariat if they wish to put themselves forward for the Vice Chair position which has become vacant by Symon's resignation.	Secretariat/ EMAG members	April	
<b>AP 3</b>	Janet to get examples of good practice from DfES.	Janet Hill	April	
<b>AP 4</b>	EMAG to write to Jim Murphy and Phill Hope to express concerns about the Leitch Review.	Iqbal	April	
<b>AP 5</b>	ECOTEC to share information/details with EMAG.	Secretariat	April	
<b>AP 6</b>	EMAG to pull together a paper for the Task Force meeting in April to express concerns.	Secretariat	April	
<b>AP 7</b>	Secretariat to inform members who have not attended the last three or more meetings or more that their membership is being reconsidered and will be replaced by others who have shown interests in joining EMAG.	Secretariat	April/May	

### Date of Next Meeting:

Date	Time	Venue
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> June 2007	3:00pm - 4:30pm	Cipfa