

Ethnic Minority Advisory Group Meeting
4:00pm - 5:30pm, Wednesday 28th June 2006
CIPFA Conference Centre, 3 Robert Street WC2N 6RL

Meeting notes and Action Points

Attendees:

Iqbal Wahhab (Chair)
Helen Wollaston
Dr Nim Njuguna
Marcia Roberts
John Attree
Collette Cork-Hurst
Faraz Yousufzai
Shaynul Khan
Symon Sentain
Parvin Ali
Rokhsana Fiaz
Rev Janet Murray
Richard Sumray
Alice Teague
Robert Irvine
David Drew
Carol McDonald
Viv Miller
Astrid Breuer

Apologies:

David Boyle
Jonathan Baldrey
Wilf Sullivan
Zainab Yasmeen
Mohini S Gujral
Tunde Banjoko
Azhar Ali
Professor Ted Cattle
Adeeba Malik
Jeremy Crook

Organisation:

Private Business/Entrepreneur
Equal Opportunities Commission
Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum
Recruitment and Employment Confederation
London First
TGWU
Working Links (Birmingham)
East London Mosque
The Bridge New Deal for Communities
FATIMA Women's Network
The Change Institute and New Formations Agency
Community Family Challengers Project
Chair 2012 Forum
Commission for Race Equality
DWP
DWP
DWP
DWP
DWP

Head teacher, Dunraven School
Talent/At Work
TGWU
ATL Enterprise, Yorkshire Ltd
Presentation Group
LEAP
TMP People Consulting
Institute of community cohesion and IDeA
QED
Black Training and Enterprise Group (BTEG)

Agenda Item 1 - Welcome and introductions

Iqbal Wahhab welcomed everyone to the meeting and each attendee introduced themselves and gave a brief background of their experience.

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Apologies received from Nahid Majid (Head of the Ethnic Minority Employment Division) and others.

Agenda item 2: Overview of Ethnic Minority Employment Task Force (EMETF) and Ethnic Minority and Employment Division (EMED) in the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP)

Robert Irvine provided an overview of the Task Force and the Ethnic Minority Employment Division. He explained the key priorities of the EMETF were:

- Procurement – established procurement pilots in the DWP, Home Office, DfES (although there are some issues to sort out), and the Scottish Executive Office. However, more work is needed to address race equality issues. Currently looking at a US contract compliance model
- City Strategy – the Prime Minister announced in April that two consortia would be established; one in East London and one in West London. Both consortia are being supported by Jobcentre Plus, Learning Skills Council (LSC), Greater London Authority (GLA), London Development Agency (LDA), local employers, National Employment Panel (NEP) and the 5 Boroughs (Tower Hamlet, Hackney, Waltham Forest, Newham and Greenwich). The city strategy will have clear impact on ethnic minority worklessness and there will be more flexibility in government funding streams.
- Recruitment - Civil Service recruitment targets are not currently meeting the race equality duty, this issue needs to be addressed.
- Employer Engagement – a way of highlighting diversity issues, the CBI have reported that employers need better advice.
- Olympics – the games will offer an opportunity to create social and economic benefit for local people.

Robert also outlined the role of the Secretariat and the Senior Officials Group.

AP 2.1: Secretariat to circulate contact details of EMAG members.

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Agenda Item 3: EMED Research and Strategy

David Drew from the Research Team delivered a presentation on current research and key statistics on ethnic minority employment. Key points from his presentation were that:

- the employment gap between ethnic minorities and the White community has persisted over the last thirty years;
- employer discrimination is a significant issue that has an impact on ethnic minority employment; and
- while there has been much research and programmes delivered in addressing ethnic minority disadvantage in education, less has been done in relation to employment and recruitment, and that this is a key area for further work.

Robert Irvine gave a presentation on the strategy for EMED. He said that there are a number of government programmes that have been implemented to address ethnic minority disadvantage; however, there is more that can be done. He said that EMED would focus on the five key priorities as outlined in Agenda Item 1 and felt that with the wide variety of experience of EMAG members they had much to contribute in addressing these priorities, particularly in the areas of procurement and employer engagement.

AP 3.1: Secretariat to send presentation slides to EMAG members.

Agenda Item 4 - Olympics presentation

This agenda item was brought forward.

Richard Sumray, the Chair of the 2012 Forum, gave a presentation on the role of volunteering in the 2012 London Olympics.

Richard Sumray highlighted the view that the Olympics should have social and economic benefits and that it could act as a catalyst for many opportunities, in regeneration, volunteering and development of jobs. He then went on to talk about some of the plans for developing the role of volunteers in the 2012 Olympics including outreach into the communities where the Olympics will be held, and development of skills in such areas as health service provision and community policing; and that volunteering would present opportunities for all age groups.

Richard Sumray said that work had now begun on developing a strategy for engaging volunteers and that this strategy would not only focus on the Olympics, but also look

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beyond the event to continue development of opportunities in the future. The strategy report should be available around autumn 2006.

Iqbal thanked Richard for his presentation and suggested that DCMS, LDA and the Mayor's Office be invited to the next EMAG meeting to present their work on the Olympics.

AP 4.1: Secretariat to invite DCMS, LDA and the Mayor's Office to the next EMAG meeting.

Agenda Item 5 - Terms of Reference

Apart from a minor change of wording, the Terms of Reference presented to EMAG were accepted. A question was raised as to the 'shelf life' of EMAG. It was decided that this was an issue for further consideration as there is an impending review of EMETF.

Agenda item 6 - EMAG Reception

Carol McDonald provided an overview of the EMAG Reception and said that there was a submission with the Minister awaiting clearance. Carol will circulate details of the reception to EMAG members.

Iqbal stated that the aims of EMAG should be made clear at the reception.

AP 5.1: Secretariat to circulate details of EMAG Reception to members

Agenda Item 7 - AOB

European Structural Funds (ESF)

Parvin Ali raised the question of how the ESF had been factored into the work on ethnic minorities and how such work could be monitored. David Drew replied that EMED would be incorporating consideration of ESF into their research work. Robert also noted that Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) are incorporating ethnic minority considerations in their work.

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Frequency of meetings

The question was raised as to whether meetings should occur more frequently especially around specific issues or whether sub-groups should be formed to discuss these issues. Following a discussion, it was agreed that based on previous experience sub-groups would not be the best way forward and that EMAG should dedicate time in the first few meetings discussing the key priorities.

Iqbal Wahhab suggested that if EMAG members had any issues/comments they would like to raise with the Ethnic Minority Employment Taskforce they should do so via the Secretariat, who will refer onto Iqbal. Iqbal Wahhab is a member of the Task Force.

The Chair thanked everyone for their contributions

Next meeting of the Ethnic Minority Advisory Group will be:

Date:	3 rd October 2006
Time:	4:00pm to 5:30pm
Venue:	CIPFA Conference Centre, 3 Robert Street, London, WC2N 6RL