

East of England Strategic Migration Partnership Migrant Worker Steering Group - Terms of Reference

Vision:

The economic strategy vision is that by 2031 the region will be '*internationally competitive*' and one that '*harnesses and develops the talents and creativity of all*'. This vision also includes the region being known for its quality of life, which is a fundamental part of attracting people to come to and stay in the East of England.

Our vision is one where the East of England provides a welcoming atmosphere for migrants, in order to facilitate their integration and maximise their contribution economically, socially and culturally for the benefit of all.

Purpose:

To provide strategic leadership for interagency co-operation in addressing issues facing migrant workers, existing communities and businesses and the region as a whole

Objectives:

The objectives of the group are to:

1. make the case for an open and inclusive regional economy that is receptive to the benefits of migration economically, socially and culturally
2. champion the benefits migrants bring to the region and publicise these to the wider community
3. ensure the region has sound labour market intelligence on the need for migrants to fill skills gaps
4. ensure that public and third sector interventions to support migrants are appropriately coordinated
5. share good practice within the region, with other regions of the UK and across Europe
6. ensure that key migration issues are addressed in regional policies and strategies
7. act as a conduit for regional evidence to be channelled into the development of national and European policy

Ways of working:

The group will address key themes around migration in the region. Initially these shall be on employment, enterprise and skills; housing and health.

The group will include representatives of:

- East of England Strategic Migration Partnership
- Home Office
- Department for Work and Pensions
- Local authorities
- Public Health England
- Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Agency
- Government Inclusive Economy Unit and Office for Civil Society East
- Police forces
- Employer organisations
- Migrant support organisations
- other organisations as agreed by the group

The group will meet three or four times per year at dates, times and locations to be agreed by its members.

Roles:

In line with the economic strategy vision as stated above, the group supports the desire for people of all backgrounds to benefit from living, working and studying in the region. However, our role is to focus on the needs of migrants to the East of England, ensuring that they are not left behind in seizing the opportunities that the region can and does offer.

We will:

1. commission and manage activity or services that target migrant workers, their employers and front line staff in key agencies that tackle the issues affecting migrant workers;
2. commission research and collate information that will provide evidence in support of our objectives;
3. provide regular updates on key migrant worker issues and activity within the region and act as a conduit for information being fed through from sub-regional migrant worker networks;
4. promote the evaluation of existing activity and dissemination of good practice in relation to schemes designed to increase migrant worker integration, improve access to information and services and address skills and employment issues.