

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

INQUIRY INTO RESPONDING TO THE NEEDS OF MIGRANTS AND THEIR FAMILIES

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Migration for work is not new but it is increasing. Foreign nationals made up 3.5 per cent of the workforce in 1996, but 6 per cent in 2006. The accession of ten new states to the European Union in 2004 greatly increased both the scale and pace of change. The size and speed of change was not predicted, and so local authorities and their partners were not all well prepared.¹
- 1.2 Local authorities cannot control migration but they do have an important role in managing the consequences of change, for the benefit of the whole community.
- 1.3 In Leeds the scale of recent increases in migration potentially brings pressures on the local economy, housing, the jobs market and local public services. Given its role in community leadership, the City Council needs to with other partners to respond to the City's changing needs.
- 1.4 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee resolved at its July meeting to undertake an *Inquiry into how the City is making this response*.

2.0 SCOPE OF THE INQUIRY

- 2.1 The purpose of the Inquiry is to make an assessment of and, where appropriate, make recommendations on the following areas:
 - The sufficiency of intelligence available to Leeds City Council and its partners to understand local changes in the community profile.
 - The ability for services to respond to a changing community profile
 - The organisational structure in which services are planned and co-ordinated

¹ <http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/migrantworkers/>

- The effect on the ability of services to maintain levels of services
- The budgetary consequences of providing services

3.0 COMMENTS OF THE RELEVANT DIRECTOR AND EXECUTIVE MEMBER

TO BE RECEIVED

4.0 TIMETABLE FOR THE INQUIRY

4.1 The Inquiry will take place between December and February, with a view to issuing a final report in March 2008.

5.0 SUBMISSION OF EVIDENCE

5.1 The following evidence will be considered by the Committee

- Statistical evidence of the extent of migration in Leeds including trends
- A statement on the planning framework for services in Leeds
- Relevant officer/external organisations which cant be captured through the LAA

6.0 WITNESSES

6.1 The Committee is likely to seek evidence and views from a number of sources. These will include:

Local Area Agreement Strategy Group/Leeds Initiative

Faith groups

Voluntary Sector

7.0 POST INQUIRY REPORT MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS

7.1 Following the completion of the Scrutiny inquiry and the publication of the final inquiry report and recommendations, the implementation of the agreed recommendations will be monitored. The Committee will determine those arrangements at the end of the Inquiry.

7.2 The final inquiry report will include information on the detailed arrangements for how the implementation of recommendations will be monitored.

8.0 MEASURES OF SUCCESS

- 8.1 It is important to consider how the Committee will deem if its inquiry has been successful in making a difference to local people. Some measures of success may be obvious at the initial stages of an inquiry and can be included in these terms of reference. Other measures of success may become apparent as the inquiry progresses and discussions take place.
- 8.2 The Committee will look to publish practical recommendations.