

Local Government Mayoral Taskforce supporting People Seeking Asylum

MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE MEETING NO. 1

Monday 20 August 2018

9.30am-1pm

City of Greater Dandenong, 225 Lonsdale St Dandenong

Chairperson: Mayor Youhorn Chea (CGD)

Attendees: Cr Matthew Kirwan (CGD), Peter Johnstone (CGD), Filiz Behaettin - Minute Taker (CGD), Mayor Kim Le Cerf (Darebin City Council), Mandy Bathgate (Darebin), Deputy Mayor Natalie Abboud (Moreland City Council), Deputy Mayor Misha Coleman (Yarra City Council) and Cristina Del Frate (Yarra City Council)

Apologies: Cr Roz Blades (CGD), Mayor Margaret Giudice (Brimbank), Lynley Dumble (Brimbank) and Terri Soumalis (Brimbank)

Agenda Item	Discussion Points/Comments	Action / Who
Purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Purpose of Taskforce statement has been confirmed: <i>'Coordination of joint state-wide advocacy by Victorian Councils and sharing resources and practical responses by Victorian communities to the issues caused by the SRSS cuts'.</i>	<i>Note:</i> No specific action but decision to be communicated to Member Councils via the minutes.
Name of Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none">It was agreed the name of the taskforce is: <i>'Local Government Mayoral Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum'.</i> <p>The rationale for this name is that over time the taskforce may consider and foster collaboration between Councils on other issues affecting people seeking asylum than the SRSS cuts. The word Victorian was left out as Councils from other States may be invited over time.</p>	<i>Note:</i> No specific action but decision to be communicated to Member Councils via the minutes.

Agenda Item	Discussion Points/Comments	Action / Who
Executive Governance	<p>It was agreed by those present that the following Governance arrangements would be followed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taskforce agreed membership would be composed of Mayors, interested Councillors and senior officers from each Executive Council • Due to the urgency of matter, meetings at this stage will be held monthly. However, moving forward, meetings may change to bi-monthly. It was agreed future meetings will be held during standard work hours. • Decisions would be consensus but if a vote was required there would be one vote per Council regardless of how many participants there are from any one Council. • City of Greater Dandenong to be the permanent secretary preparing agenda for each meeting and official spokesperson of taskforce. • Next taskforce meeting to be held at the City of Yarra. 	<p>Note: No specific action but decision to be communicated to Member Councils via the minutes.</p> <p>City of Greater Dandenong to liaise with Yarra City Council to organise next taskforce meeting</p>
Officer Working Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Officer working group agreed to be formed, noting that each individual council to advocate against SRSS cuts through their own municipal regions and regional bodies forming on practical responses would be encouraged. • The purpose of the officer working group would be to facilitate the implementation of joint actions of the Executive between meetings – there would be no regular meetings - appointed council officers are able to liaise with each other as the need arises often by email or phone. 	<p>Greater Dandenong to initiate formation of officer working group.</p>
Other Councils to make up the Taskforce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taskforce is currently accepting offers of executive and general membership from the different municipalities across the State. At the some point in the near future this opportunity will close and membership of the Executive will be by application. • Some councils have decided not to be on the executive committee, but rather be member councils only at this stage. • Member Councils will receive the minutes of each Executive meeting. 	<p>City of Greater Dandenong to notify councils of close date for expressions of interest for membership</p>
Media/Public Relations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion occurred for a combined media/public relations approach as per the example of the Enough Pokies campaign in 2014 where each of the twelve councils contributed \$5,000 for a joint state-wide media approach. • Those attending agreed to the benefits of the general approach noting that the exact amount was yet to be determined and this would be discussed in further detail at the next Taskforce meeting once a quote had been obtained. 	<p>All members to liaise with their Councils and provide an update on their commitment to a joint media/public relations approach.</p>

Agenda Item	Discussion Points/Comments	Action / Who
Initial Priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft outline of Strategic Direction completed during the meeting. • Priority areas of Taskforce have been identified as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Humanitarian Response – Employment, Housing, Material Aid ○ Advocacy Actions ○ Social Cohesion 	Draft outline of Strategic Direction to be sent out to all Member Councils with minutes with opportunity for them to comment.
Other Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on formal signing of Joint Statement noted. Some Councils have not signed the joint statement as they are still awaiting Council decision. • Updates on Greater Dandenong Prototype Status – other Councils are invited to trial the new software package once prototype phasing is complete. • City of Greater Dandenong provided feedback re – August Strategic Summit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Summit was successful with numerous agencies and Councils coming together to share information 	City of Greater Dandenong to follow up Councils on formal signing of Joint statement
Meeting closed	12.48pm	

Next Meeting:

Wednesday 19 September, 1:00pm-4.00pm
 City of Yarra
 333 Bridge Rd, Richmond