

Local Government Mayoral Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum Minutes – Executive Meeting No. 13 – Wednesday 25 September 2019 City of Brimbank, 301 Hampshire Road, Sunshine

Chairperson: Cr Matthew Kirwan (*Greater Dandenong*) – Acting Chair

Attendees: Cr Victoria Borg (*Brimbank*), Glenn Menner (*Brimbank*), Terri Soumilas (*Brimbank*), Mayor Susan Rennie (*Darebin*), Peter Johnstone (*Greater Dandenong*), Mayor Jonathon Marsden (*Hobsons Bay*), Nalika Peiris (*Moreland*),

Minute Taker: Marek Krol (*Greater Dandenong*)

Apologies: Lynley Dumble (*Brimbank*), Wambui Thirimu (*Brimbank*), Mayor Cr Roz Blades (*Taskforce Chair - Greater Dandenong*), Cr Youhorn Chea (*Greater Dandenong*), Mayor Shane McCluskey (*Monash*), Fee Harrison (*Monash*), Pamela Kosij (*Monash*), Cr Jim Cusack (*Moonee Valley*), Mayor Natalie Abboud (*Moreland*), Cristina Del Frate (*Yarra*)

Agenda Item	Discussion Points/Comments	Follow up Actions / Who
Welcome and Introductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cr Matthew Kirwan welcomed all representatives to the meeting • Cr Victoria Borg welcomed everyone to Brimbank City Council and acknowledged Traditional Owners. • Apologies noted. 	
Endorsement of Minutes of Previous Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Previous minutes moved by Mayor Jonathon Marsden, seconded by Marek Krol. 	
Review of Outstanding Action Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No outstanding items 	

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Taskforce Strategic Approach – Discussion and endorsement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the September Teleconference consensus was reached with putting forward Strategic Options 1, 4 and 5 for endorsement by the Taskforce at the October Meeting. • Based on Option 1, 4 and 5 a more detailed new Strategic Approach with revised objectives was prepared outlining how these options could be combined cohesively. In summary, this approach involved continuing the Back Your Neighbour campaign (including the same brand), supporting advocacy approaches of sector partners (RCOA, ASRC and Refugee Action Network) particularly with political connections and also on a case by case basis collaborating on other people seeking asylum related campaigns. • Attending Council Members endorsed the new Strategic Approach and the revised campaign objectives. • Cr Kirwan mentioned how the revised Back Your Neighbour objectives reflected the language employed by the sector e.g. RCOA and ASRC usage of 'liveable income' and 'safety net' instead of 'SRSS'. 	
General Update on the SRSS Situation and Taskforce activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SRSS Update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Refugee Council of Australia (RCOA) has not received any SRSS updates from the Department since May. RCOA is planning to meet with the Department in October ○ According to the May figures there were 5,800 nationwide at the time on SRSS. This is a significant drop of between 7,500 – 8,000 in 12 months. ○ All categories of recipients are now open for review, including families with children. ○ The level of work required with each review is very high, placing a significant imposition on individuals and agencies having to provide large volumes of evidence for routine reviews. ○ RCOA currently creating updated fact sheet on people seeking asylum available in two weeks. • Red Cross Referral Process for South East: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Red Cross is one of the major providers of case management and emergency relief from State Government stopgap funding. Red Cross Dandenong Office has developed purpose-built referral process and hotline for appointment making (refer to attachment). ○ North Melbourne Office could replicate this process for the north-west. • Greater Dandenong Council Filming <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CGD currently creating media content with local service providers about the impact that the SRSS cuts are having on the local community. To be released on social media in October / November. 	

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<p>Taskforce Administration, Governance and Membership Update</p> <p>a) Frequency and future dates for Taskforce meetings – proposal to move bi-monthly</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cr Kirwan mentioned that focus on Taskforce recruitment had been placed on hold until strategic options and revised objectives were on endorsed by the Taskforce. Recruitment of new members to now recommence. • Depending on each Councils internal processes, Cr Kirwan noted that Strategic Approach and revised objectives may require approval via councillor briefing session, council report, CEO approval etc. Marek can provide further information about the new strategic change to Councils to assist them with their individual processes. • Cr Kirwan noted that new Mayors elected in November will be added to the Taskforce contact list, with an invitation to attend the November Meeting. Existing members (Mayors, Deputy Mayors and interested Councillors) will continue to be invited unless they inform Greater Dandenong otherwise. • Mayor Rennie noted that due to low representation of Member Councils at the present meeting that the Executive seek approval of Strategic Approach options and objectives from remainder of Councils – Yarra and Monash. • Member Councils will be informed of new Approach and objectives and feedback sought as per the consultation requirement in the Terms of Reference • As requested by Mayor Rennie a draft campaign plan with theory of change and performance metrics will be tabled for discussion at the next Taskforce Meeting in November. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update contact list with new Mayors after elections, and invite all Executive Council Mayors to the November meeting – Marek (CGD) • Send a letter to all non-Executive Member Council members explaining and seeking any feedback on new approach and objectives agreed by the Executive Member Councils and requesting indication of any change in level of membership if required– Marek (CGD) • Consult Yarra and Monash for feedback re: Strategic Approach and revised objectives – Marek (CGD) • Draft Campaign Plan for next Taskforce Meeting – Cr Kirwan/Marek/Peter (CGD)
<p>Regional/Local Updates</p> <p>a) Northern Alliance</p> <p>b) PSAARD Taskforce</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern Alliance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Alliance agreed to continue meeting bi-monthly as an opportunity for information sharing. • PSAARD: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Workshopped different messages that may encourage people seeking asylum to persevere and remain strong. ○ PSAARD also looking at bi-monthly meetings. Continue a networking relationship. 	

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Other Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victorian Afghan Associations Network (VAAN) interested to find out how they can be involved in the Back Your Neighbour Campaign. • Victorian Interfaith Conference to be held in November with BYN scheduled to present. Opportunity to connect with faith-based organisations. • Mayor Rennie volunteered to facilitate a power mapping exercise to identify key decision makers, their positions, and influence at November Meeting. Whiteboard will be required at next meeting. • Cr Kirwan spoke about the Refugee Welcome Zone Leadership Group. Membership cost - \$5,000. Yearly opportunity for high quality information sharing including support of annual conference of Refugee Welcome Zone Councils for all Australian Councils. • Marie Hapke has requested that an email be sent around to all Councils to find out what each one is doing in terms of benefits, programs, activities for people seeking asylum e.g. discounts for swimming etc. This will allow a knowledge bank to be developed of Council related actions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact Nazir Yousafi, President of the Victorian Afghan Associations Network to discuss his involvement with BYN – Marek (CGD) • Power mapping exercise led by Mayor Rennie to be put on the agenda for the next meeting – Marek (CGD) • Email all Councils to provide information regarding activities and benefits that they provide for people seeking asylum – Marek (CGD)
Next Meeting	<p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday 27 November 2019, 1:00pm-3:00pm Hume City Council 1093 Pascoe Vale Road, Broadmeadows 3047</p> <p>Other proposed meeting dates and venues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday, 27 February TBC location 	
Close	3:10PM	