

Local Government Mayoral Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum Minutes – Executive Meeting No. 7 Wednesday 13 February 2018 Hobsons Bay City Council, 115 Civic Parade, Altona

Chairperson: Cr Matthew Kirwan (CGD) – Acting on behalf of Mayor Cr Roz Blades

Attendees: Cr Victoria Borg (Brimbank), Wambui Thirimu (Brimbank), Cr Youhorn Chea (CGD), Peter Johnstone (CGD), Marek Krol (CGD), Mayor Cr Susan Rennie (Darebin), Mandy Bathgate (Darebin), Mayor Cr Jonathon Marsden (Hobsons Bay), Amber Cassidy (Hobsons Bay), May Ng (Hobsons Bay), Teneha Greco (Hume), Fee Harrison (Monash), Mayor, Cr Natalie Abboud (Moreland City Council)

Guests: Daniel Scoullar (Social Change Projects), Meghan Hopper (Moonee Valley)

Apologies: Mayor Cr Roz Blades, Mayor Cr Lucinda Congreve (Brimbank), Terri Soumilas (Brimbank)

Agenda Item	Discussion Points/Comments	Follow up Actions / Who
Welcome and Introductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acknowledgement of traditional owners. Mayor Cr Jonathon Marsden welcomed all Council representatives attending Hobsons Bay City Council. • Apologies noted. 	
Endorsement of Minutes of Previous Meeting	Previous minutes moved by Cr Matthew Kirwan, seconded by Mayor, Cr Jonathon Marsden. Endorsed.	
Review of Outstanding Action Items	Cr Matthew Kirwan - reiterated the request that all Member Councils follow / like Back Your Neighbour (BYN) Campaign social media pages i.e. Facebook, Twitter	ALL - Member Councils follow / like Back Your Neighbour (BYN) Campaign social media pages i.e. Facebook, Twitter

<p>Back Your Neighbour Phase 2 Campaign</p> <p>a) Campaign Plan rollout</p> <p>b) Tool/communication demonstration</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daniel gave an overview of the Campaign Plan that was distributed • Daniel demonstrated the petition created using the Megaphone site and the easy online email your MP functionality that the Do Gooder tool provides • Marek gave an update on the number of likes and number of followers for the Back Your Neighbour Facebook page respectively • Member Council progress update on campaign story content for BYN: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Darebin – series of photos in collaboration with Brotherhood of St Laurence ○ Greater Dandenong – Social media content relatively Greater Dandenong centric so far, need to diversify content ○ Moonee Valley – Developing content around community champions ○ Hume – Some asylum seekers were not comfortable with their photos taken. May look at creating a story with a service provider ○ Hobsons Bay – Creating short film with service providers – focus on impact of SRSS cuts ○ Monash – Narrative based on series of photos • Members raised important considerations regarding participants: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Need to protect participants from potential racism and hate speech that may arise on social media, by promptly moderating comments ○ Need to inform participants about the purpose of the content and what it will be used for – suggestion of a one-pager to communicate to potential participants explaining about potential social media risk and identifying Taskforce’s duty of care ○ Need to obtain clear consent from participants • Notification of Cultural Diversity Week: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Opportunity to have campaign petitions ready to sign at events organised by or participated in by member Councils ○ Petitions in multiple languages will increase signatures • Campaign Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Expanding campaign coalition – identifying community organisations to support the campaign – church groups, aid agencies, volunteer groups ○ Campaign petition needs to mobilise numbers rapidly ○ Those attending agreed with Youhorn’s suggestion that there be a paper version of the petition • Take action – Email Your MP Found on campaign website – aimed at more politically engaged individuals to send letter to their local MPs. Takes under 30 seconds. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ALL - Translate petition into multiple languages by councils (Daniel Scoullar to discuss with Amber Cassidy about coordinating this task) • ALL - Each council to provide a list to Marek Krol of organisations to be contacted to support campaign. • ALL - Advertise petition on individual council Facebook pages. <p>Distribute paper version of petition – Marek Krol (CGD)</p>
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<p>MP Lobbying</p> <p>a) Meeting with Federal Shadow Minister for Immigration and Border Protection Hon. Shayne Neumann MP and Mr. Julian Hill MP, Federal Member for Bruce in Dandenong on Friday, 8 February</p> <p>b) Other</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cr Matthew Kirwan apologised about the short notice to members for the meeting. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hon. Shayne Neumann MP very strong in committing to the decision that was made at the 2018 ALP National Conference and prioritising the issue of reversing the SRSS cuts. ○ Details about the ALP commitment are still missing – timeframe and scope. • Nil report 	
<p>Review of Taskforce Strategic Priorities</p>	<p>Peter Johnstone workshopped and updated Taskforce Strategic Priorities with members.</p>	<p>Draft to be sent out to council members before March Taskforce meeting for endorsement – Marek Krol (CGD)</p>
<p>Draft Australia Local Government Association (ALGA) Motion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peter Johnstone workshopped draft ALGA Motion at meeting. Motion to be presented by CGD at June National General Assembly of ALGA. • Suggestion for a greater ask from ALGA. Motion adjusted to request ALGA to facilitate a meeting between National President of ALGA, Representative from the Mayoral Taskforce and the Minister for Immigration. 	<p>Full ALGA Motion and supporting rationale to be sent out to council members requesting formal support before March Taskforce meeting – Marek Krol (CGD)</p>
<p>Taskforce Governance and Membership Update</p>	<p>Cr Matthew Kirwan updated representatives re new Taskforce members and supporters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Canterbury-Bankstown (NSW) – New Taskforce Member ○ Geelong (New Supporter) – significant as it contains part of the marginal Federal election of Corangimite ○ Mornington Peninsula (New Supporter) – significant as it contains part of the Federal electorate of Flinders <p>He is still following up a number of NSW Councils to join and/or become supporters</p>	
<p>Walk for Justice (Palm Sunday March)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council Members agreed to \$365 cost of banner. • Writing on banner: <p style="text-align: center;">BACK YOUR NEIGHBOUR Stop cruel cuts against people seeking asylum Local Government Mayoral Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum</p> 	<p>Marek Krol (CGD) and Fran McKechnie (CGD) to follow up</p>

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Regional/Local Updates a) Northern Alliance b) PSAARD Taskforce – South-East Melbourne Regional Material Aid/Humanitarian Response Collaboration	Nil update PSAARD Taskforce – Peter Johnstone <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Advice from Life Without Barriers - SRSS cuts will not (as yet) be introduced to asylum seeker families with children 6 years or younger. ○ PSAARD reviewing and updating current objectives for the new year 	
Other Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cr Jonathan Marsden mentioned the possibility of a Regional Alliance for Western Suburbs Councils ● Cr Matthew Kirwan informed the meeting that now that the meeting with Shane Neumann had taken place Cr Roz Blades would focus on requesting support from the State Government of Victoria on behalf of Victorian Taskforce Councils 	Letter to be written for Cr Roz Blades – Daniel Scoullar (CGD)
Next Meeting	Wednesday 13 March 2019, 1:00pm-3.00pm, Monash Council Civic Centre, 293 Springvale Road, Glen Waverley	Marek Krol (CGD)
Close		

Other proposed meeting dates and venues

- Wednesday, 17 April Greater Dandenong
- Wednesday, 26 June Darebin
- Thursday, 24 July Brimbank