

GLA 22/7.1

Liaison Groups

22 April 2009

BOARD PAPER REFERENCE – GLA 22/7.1 – Liaison GroupsIssue

1. Establishing Liaison Groups to the GLA Board.

Recommendation

2. The Board is invited to:
 - Approve establishing Liaison Committees in principle, and
 - Discuss and agree the issues raised in the "Points for Discussion" section below.

Background

3. The GLA currently has three stakeholder forums (the labour provider, labour user and worker representative groups). Membership of these groups include relevant GLA Board members plus other interested stakeholders.

4. These groups have been used to seek stakeholder input into the work of the GLA. However, they have never had any kind of formal basis to determine their activities. The latest review by the Universities of Liverpool and Sheffield has recommended changes to these groups:

"The labour user, labour provider and worker representation groups should develop more strategically, for example convening around a particular issue rather than just meeting on a regular basis out of habit. The GLA should invite people to propose issues to be discussed and select and steer the agenda accordingly. This way something significant is being offered in terms of communicating with the GLA, but it is up to those who would like to be consulted to come forward with agendas."

5. With this in mind, it is recommended that the current representative groups are formally reconstituted as liaison groups of the Board. While the Liverpool / Sheffield suggests convening around single issues, the GLA Executive considers constituting formal groups which report to the Board would greatly improve the strategic nature of the current representative groups.

6. Paragraph 7 of Gangmasters (Licensing Authority) Regulations 2005 gives the GLA Board the power to set up liaison groups:

"7(1) The Board may establish liaison groups to do any of the following –

- (a) to provide advice to the Board on the operation of the 2004 Act and any Regulations or rules made under it, the extent of compliance with any requirements imposed under the 2004 Act and the effectiveness of any such requirements;

- (b) to assist the Board in keeping under review the activities of persons who act as gangmasters; and
- (c) to provide a forum for communication between the Board and other persons.
- (2) Membership of each liaison group shall be at the discretion of the Board.
- (3) Each liaison group shall be chaired by a member of the Board.
- (4) The Board shall set the terms of reference for each liaison group.
- (5) The Authority may determine the level of remuneration and allowances paid to members liaison groups, subject to the approval of the Secretary of State."

Points for Discussion

Chair of the Groups

- 7. There are two options for chairing the groups. A Board member with a representative interest chairs their corresponding group. Alternatively the chair for each committee could be drawn from Board members that are not part of the same interest group. The latter approach would make sure there was no conflict of interest. Board members are invited to express a view on which option they prefer.
- 8. Following this, the Chairman will approach the appropriate Board members to discuss the possibility of chairing the groups.

Membership of the Groups

- 9. The current representative groups do not have a formalised membership. The GLA Executive will work with the chairs to determine the membership for each group. This will include relevant Board members as well as other external stakeholders.
- 10. It is anticipated there will be 8-10 group members – this should help keep the groups focussed on key issues.

Terms of Reference

- 11. Once the chair and membership is in place, the terms of reference for each group will be determined by the individual groups.

Next Steps

- 12. The chairs, membership and terms of reference will then be ratified by the Board at the June meeting. Once this has been agreed, meetings will be

conducted at a frequency determined by each group, although it is anticipated they may meet quarterly.

13. The chairs will be then report to the full Board on the work and activity of each group.