

Association of Labour Providers

Minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on Thursday 31 January 2008, at 11:00 am, The Association of Charitable Foundations, 14 Upper Woburn Street, London WC1H 0AE

Present

Mark Boleat (Chairman)
David Camp (Director)
Andy Haselip (Pro-Force)
Gary Norman (One Call Recruitment)
Jimmy Davies (HOPS)
Jerry Camp (ALP)
Lee Rand (Teamwork Resource)
Bernard Gaughan (Total Labour Solutions)
Ken Steers (PMP/Provista)
Nicky Tidman (RE Personnel) , Guest
Stephen Brewis (Blue Arrow) , Guest
Ian Livsey (CEO, GLA), Guest

1. Apologies for absence

Penny Machale (PJJ)
Zahid Daar (Interecruit)
Joanne Young (Right4Staff)
Andy Hogarth (Staffline)
Karen Lowe (TSS)
Mark Rye (DKM)
Tracy Evans (Pertemps)

2. Membership of the Committee

No change to the Membership of the Committee.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on September 21 2007 (Paper 2008/01)

The minutes of the meeting held on September 21 2007 were agreed as a correct record.

Gangmaster Licensing Authority Issues

4. GLA Licence Fees 2008 – 2009 (Paper 2008/02)

The Committee noted with approval the GLA's decision to remove the financial incentive for labour providers not to seek a licence in response to the Association's representations.

It was noted that the GLA intended to seek more genuine consultation before confirming the licence fees for 2009- 2010.

The Executive Committee asked the GLA to investigate more closely those applications coming from businesses reporting turnover in Band C without having previously held a GLA licence.

The Committee agreed to ask the GLA to investigate the issue of phoenixing which appears to be widespread in this industry.

5. GLA Future and Structure (Paper 2008/03)

The Executive Committee agreed that the ALP Chairman should again write to the Minister requesting that the GLA be left as is and not merged into the HSE.

6. GLA User Group (Paper 2008/04)

Ian Livsey stressed the importance of the User Group to the GLA. The User Group would help amend the Licence Standard priorities.

Ian Livsey stated that he was meeting with the major food retailers and was intending to highlight the importance of the labour users in helping ensure their labour providers were maintaining compliance with the licence standards.

David Camp asked that issues be passed to the ALP for discussion at the next User Group meeting.

Ian Livsey stated that the wording of the standards was under review.

The Executive Committee asked that LS 6 be made easier to understand and interpret.

Issues relevant to members' business

7. Charge Rates (Paper 2008/05)

The Committee agreed that the ALP should **not** recommend minimum charge rates to labour providers or labour users.

It was agreed that the actual cost of transporting a worker each day was in excess of £6.40.

Ian Livsey and Mark Boleat agreed that there should be more joint co-operation between the GLA and ALP on the use of the media to highlight labour users who were paying below their legal obligations, the consequence of which was to encourage labour providers not to pay their workers the legally correct pay.

8. Entitlement to Work and WRS issues (Paper 2008/06)

The Executive Committee discussed the Chairman's exchange with the Home Office regarding the WRS scheme and the Section 8 requirements.

Gary Norman stated that the confusing Government guidelines had led to his clients also requiring their own document checks on One Call's workers.

The ALP would continue to argue for the WRS scheme to be abolished.

9. Other issues relevant to Members' Business

The Executive Committee noted the launch of the self-audit tool for enabling labour providers and labour users to self-audit against the GLA standards.

The Executive authorised David Camp to write to Defra to request greater clarification and clear interpretation of the Agricultural Wages Orders.

10. Agricultural Wages Order (Paper 2008/07)

Following a lengthy discussion, it was agreed that the Association would make representations to Defra for the abolition of the Agricultural Wages Boards and the Agricultural Wages Orders.

The ALP would also write to the GLA and request that references to the AWO be removed from the Licence Standards.

11. ALP Policy Priorities (Paper 2008/08)

The Executive Committee was asked to note the progress made against the Policy Priorities agreed at the September 2007 meeting.

12. Financial Position (Paper 2008/09)

The financial position was noted and it was agreed that the 2007 accounts should be approved by email. The 2008 Budget was agreed and also that the same Management and Fee arrangements as for 2007 should apply in 2008

13. Membership (Paper 2008/10)

The absence of Defra funding for 2008 was noted. The Executive Committee agreed to the low cost marketing strategy to target increasing labour provider and Associate Membership.

14. Constitutional matters and the AGM (Paper 2008/11)

Mark Boleat was re-elected ALP Chairman for 2008. It was agreed that the ALP AGM would be held on 21st May 2008, at a London venue to be confirmed. It was agreed that the relevant current members would be asked to seek election at the next Executive Meeting and other members co-opted as in the past.

15. Date of Next meeting

To be held prior to AGM ,at the same location, on May 21st 2008