

SOUTH EAST ENGLAND COUNCILS EXECUTIVE MEETING



Date: 30 September 2011

Subject: **Migration Update**

Report of: Roy Millard, Manager, South East Strategic Partnership for Migration

Recommendation:

That members note the report.

1. Introduction

1.1 This report highlights some of the current activities of the South East Strategic Partnership for Migration.

2. Net Migration

2.1 These figures consider the reasons underlying a reported rise in net migration, as shown in national figures released in August 2011. This interim report precedes a full data update, which will be produced for the December Executive following publication of the full local area breakdown of migration statistics from the Office for National Statistics.

- Nationally net migration rose by 21% in 2010 to 239,000 compared to 198,000 in 2009. The main explanation is the substantial decrease in emigration from 371,000 to 336,000.
- The full impact for the South East will not be known until localised data is published by the ONS in November this year.
- Based on a stable average of 12% over the last 5 years for the South East against the national picture, it is reasonable to project that net migration rose here by approximately 5,100. If this projection is correct it means approximately 900 long term migrants came to the South East and around 4,200 fewer people emigrated.

3. EU Migration Workforce Research

3.1 Research to understand the reliance on non-EU migrant labour research has now been expanded to consider the impact of EU migrants on the South East workforce. The research is expected to be completed in October 2011.

3.2 The research is based on Workers' Registration Scheme data covering the 8 Accession States (A8) that joined the EU in 2004. It was not possible to include wider EU members as open labour markets make this virtually impossible to track accurately.

3.3 The A8 workers' data provides a robust indication of the numbers, sectors and occupations filled and chimes with the perception of Eastern European migrants working in the UK.

3.4 Key findings to date include:

- Evidence of variation across the LEP areas with South East footprints
- A8 nationals represent around 0.3% of the total economically active population
- In terms of occupations, A8 migrants are largely in low skilled occupations

- A8 migrant occupations vary across the region but the top 10 are:
 - Process Operatives
 - Maid/Room Attendants
 - Packers
 - Farm Workers/Hand
 - Cleaner/Domestic
 - Crop Harvester
 - Kitchen and Catering Assistants
 - Waiter/Waitress
 - Warehouse Operatives
 - Care Home Assistants
- There is some indication that EU migrants progress up the career ladder
- DWP data on resident labour seeking work suggests an overall shortage of Farm Workers/Hands, Crop Harvesters and Process Operatives but an over capacity for the other jobs in the top 10
- Analysis of hard to fill vacancies sees employers reporting 'lack of interest/skills and poor attitude' as the reasons why resident labour is often not used
- Many of the roles require flexible labour often filled through agencies. These provide insecure working arrangements cited by many as problematic for a range of reasons
- Although many of the jobs provide on-the-job training, links with FE colleges are important in attracting resident workers as they are seen as providing incentives around vocational qualifications and career progression.

4. Assessing the Impact of Migration on Policing

- 4.1 SESPM is working with ACPO to commission a regular assessment report on the impact of migration on policing.
- 4.2 A small focus group will meet in October to agree the headline data requirements. This group will include ACPO, senior ranking police officers, Oxford University, UKBA, Home Office, the Institute for Public Policy Research and local authority officers.
- 4.3 The outcome will be included in a future migration monitoring report to this group.