

**SOUTH WEST REGIONAL ASSEMBLY/
SOUTH WEST OF ENGLAND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT
AGENCY**

TERMS OF REFERENCE

**REGIONAL STRATEGIC REVIEW:
MIGRANT WORKERS IN THE SOUTH WEST**

PURPOSE OF REGIONAL STRATEGIC REVIEWS

The South West's Regional Economic Strategy 2006-15 (RES) provides a context for activities in the region to create Successful and Competitive Businesses, Strong and Inclusive Communities and an Effective and Confident Region.

Each Regional Strategic Review focuses on the implementation of the Regional Economic Strategy – and in particular seeks to:

- examine how effectively the RES is meeting the region's economic needs;
- assess the consistency between the RES and other regional strategies;
- assess the contribution of all agencies in making a reality of the region's strategic objectives; and,
- through bilateral discussions with South West Regional Development Agency (SWRDA), assess South West RDA's contribution in ensuring the success of the RES - both as a strategic catalyst and as delivery agent.

Through this process the South West Regional Assembly and SWRDA aim to:

- represent the views of the South West on the region's needs and assess the response to these needs;
- strengthen the accountability of agencies operating in the region;
- improve regional partnerships and increase consistency amongst regional and sub regional plans and strategies.

OBJECTIVES OF THIS REVIEW

Recognising the strategic objectives outlined in the RES, of successful and competitive businesses, strong and inclusive communities and an effective and confident region, this review will explore how the South West should respond to the economic opportunities and challenges posed by international migration.

The review will seek to explore migration as a policy issue and test the extent to which the following delivery activity, proposed in the RES delivery framework, is being met:

- **Develop and implement a Migrant Worker Strategy**

This is highlighted within the context of agreed regional priorities to deliver skills for the economy (1C), improve participation in the economy (2A) and improve the way the South West is perceived by potential workers (3B.1).

This review will consider the role and contribution of the South West RDA and regional partners in the delivery and progression of this objective.

A significant number of local and regional organisations are involved in addressing issues associated with migrant workers; therefore the Review will also examine the roles and contributions of other partners, including the Regional Strategic Coordination Board for Migration, Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs), Strategic Economic Partnerships (SEPs), Government Office South West (GOSW), the Regional Skills Partnership (RSP), Equality South West (ESW), Jobcentre Plus, Business Link, South West Tourism and South West Councils (including the Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership).

Note: For the purposes of this review, the definition of migrant workers will cover those working in the South West of England from any country outside the United Kingdom. This excludes those seeking asylum or people granted refugee status.

The review will make recommendations about how private and public organisations in the South West can best respond to changing migration patterns, to effectively deliver shared regional objectives.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

National

The issue of migration as a policy issue has been becoming increasingly visible and important, and it is only recently, that central government has begun discussing who should have policy responsibility for this issue and what structures should be put in place to facilitate government decision making. Communities and Local Government (CLG) now have the lead (through the new migrations directorate) and will be working closely with the Home Office, and BERR and other key departments. Other key structures, such as the Migration Impacts Forum, and the Migration Advisory Committee have recently been established as part of the work on the introduction of the new points based migration system. Now that the structures are becoming clearer central government will be able to articulate their requirements and begin a dialogue with regional and local bodies about their engagement on this issue. The regional infrastructure for this issue currently consists of the Regional Strategic Coordination Board for Migration (convened by the BIA) and the Forum for Migrant Workers which reports to the Board.

Regional

Whilst the RES is currently the overarching strategy relating to economic development in the South West, migrant workers may have a bearing on the successful delivery of a number of other regional strategies, including the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS).

In addition, the regional organisational and policy landscape is changing in the light of the Sub National Review of Economic Development and Regeneration (SNR), which sets out arrangements for a Single Regional Strategy combining the current scope of the RES and RSS. The review will need take into account SNR proposals when making recommendations on the development of a migrant worker strategy.

A series of formal SNR announcements from government will be underway during the course of this review. The Review will seek to avoid speculation about the future implementation of SNR proposals. A tripartite (GOSW/Regional Assembly/RDA) group has been established to discuss SNR implementation and explore the implications of SNR on the future functions of local and regional organisations. The Regional Assembly and the South West RDA recognise that they have a mutual responsibility in undertaking the investigation to avoid duplication of the work of the tripartite group and to be consistent with the group's findings in their contributions to the review.

This review will seek to draw upon and build upon the conclusions of the earlier review on Quality of Employment Opportunity.

LINES OF ENQUIRY

What?

The review will examine the role and influence of migrant workers within the economy of South West England and the role of regional organisations in responding to this. It will make recommendations to a wide range of agencies to inform the development of a migrant worker strategy/ action plan for the South West.

Why?

Why should businesses and public sector agencies respond to international migration?

What are migrant workers' attitudes and motivations for coming to the UK, and specifically the South West of England?

What is the rationale of employers in different sectors for employing migrant workers?

Where/ Who?

From which countries do most migrant workers arrive?

In which sectors, and which geographical areas, is there greatest demand for international migrants?

What is the distribution of migrant workers across the region's rural and urban areas?

What gaps are there in data and intelligence relating to migrant workers?

How?

How should SWRDA and others respond to international migration?

What information will support policy makers in assessing the current and future impact of migrant workers on specified key services and areas of public life?

Including an evaluation of:

- How migration is changing the labour market (including key sectors) and the policy implications for skills, training provision and regional economic development
- The difficulties or disadvantages migrant workers face in the labour market in the SW and how these can be overcome;
- The provision of support to migrant workers;
- The provision of support to employers of migrant workers
- the implications of a reliance on migrant workers in the SW economy;
- How the South West should prepare for future patterns of migration;
- The responsiveness of public services;
- The appropriateness of regional and local Structures for identifying and tackling issues in a coordinated way.

These main lines of enquiry may highlight additional areas for investigation; the terms of reference do not preclude analysis of issues that extend beyond the scope of the questions set out above.

ACTIONS

The objectives of the Regional Strategic Review will be achieved through the following actions, undertaken or agreed jointly by SWRDA and South West Regional Assembly.

Joint Actions

1. Consulting with key stakeholders through interviews and group discussions.
2. In addition to this joint consultation - a questionnaire will be issued to Assembly Members (to disseminate as appropriate), MP and MEPs, and key stakeholders as agreed.
3. Holding a regional workshop to focus on key issues and agree areas for further exploration in Bilateral Discussions.
4. Commissioning research, if appropriate, to inform the Regional Strategic Review.
5. Using South West RA and SWRDA websites to publicise the Strategic Review and invite contributions to the research.
6. Working with agreed regional experts in this subject area to identify the policy context, for example, policy teams from the Government Office for the South West or by obtaining independent support from academic experts or consultants.
7. Undertaking an assessment of support to date for Migrant Workers.

Bilateral Actions

8. The Assembly may seek key information from SWRDA by requesting factual information and responses to written questions – in advance of bilateral discussions.
9. SWRDA/ South West RA bilateral discussions will conclude the process.

PROTOCOL

The terms of reference will be approved by the South West Regional Assembly Scrutiny Panel and the lead SWRDA Executive Director.

The South West Regional Assembly Scrutiny Panel and SWRDA will jointly agree what information can be provided by SWRDA, and which SWRDA contacts will be consulted.

The Assembly will share its plans for the collation of regional evidence with SWRDA and provide copies of any analysis to SWRDA.

Assembly Members will withdraw from the Scrutiny Panel when considering an issue in which they have a specific interest i.e. a conflict may arise where a Member is particularly affected by the outcome of an issue.

In accordance with the aim to strengthen regional accountability, scrutiny panel meetings and bilateral discussions will be held in public.

DRAFT TIMETABLE

August	September 18	October 7	November 28	February 10	March 18	March	April/ May
Initial scoping work with SWRDA and GO.	Develop and agree ToR Evidence gathering	SWRDA to come to Panel meeting	Regional Workshop Discussions with stakeholders	Bilateral Discussion	Scrutiny Panel finalises report	Report sent to RDA and other bodies	RDA formal response to Panel Report

A full report from the Scrutiny Panel, including detailed recommendations, will be published in Spring 2009. This will be presented to SWRDA, GOSW, DCLG Ministers and the Minister for the South West and circulated widely.

SWRDA will be invited to respond in writing to the South West Regional Assembly within six weeks of receipt (or two board meetings) of the final report. This response will set out whether SWRDA are in agreement with each recommendation, the actions proposed to address the recommendations, and a timescale for implementation.

Other organisations may also be invited to respond where appropriate.