

**MUTUALS TASKFORCE MEETING**  
**Thursday 12 January, 2012**  
**22 Whitehall**  
**16.00 – 17.30**

**MINUTES**

**Attendees**

Chair: Julian Le Grand	Rachel Wolf
Peter Holbrook	Jo Pritchard
Peter Marsh	Donna Fallows
Ed Mayo	
Crown Commercial Representative for Mutuals	

**Officials**

Head of Mutuals Programme  
OCS Officials  
Crown Commercial Lead deputising for Director of Commercial

**Apologies**

Patrick Lewis	Nita Clarke
Carole Leslie	

**Welcome and introductions**

- At last meeting it was mentioned that this session would be used as a “brainstorming” session. That has been restructured slightly.

**Chair’s Update**

- Standing item – to use Chair’s update for members to also provide an update.
- Register of interest letters have gone out – most have come back. Please would those have not returned send back asap.
- Teckal paper under way, still any comments or feedback to the Vice Chair. Issues around VAT will need working through.
- Mutuals Taskforce have an e-mail address.
- Year of the Co-operative letter to departments have gone out.
- Expert round table – invite providers in role as experts, MTF members to receive invitations as providers rather than members of Taskforce.
- The Chair met with No10 official, warm, support for Taskforce and generally for Mutuals. Going out and visiting Mutuals being followed up.

**Actions**

- Officials to send round details of the Mutual’s e-mail address and details of the MIS website and links.
- MTF members to promote the e-mail address and MIS link – put on their websites, newsletters etc

**Update from Member of Taskforce representing SEUK**

- SME Panel – SME panel linked to mystery shopper unexploited opportunity for sector.
- Variety of complaints about procurement action flow out of service.
- SME panel needs to be heavily promoted across Government.
- Spin out SME working group – on which a mutual is represented - fed directly into SME Panel.
- Next SME panel, Feb.

**Actions**

Member of Taskforce from SEUK to consult colleagues for further information on actions

**Update from Crown Commercial Representative for Mutuals**

- Central Government programme, we are pushing departments, coming to us with ideas, tremendous talent in Civil Service, Good energy from Ministers. Ministers announced mutual venture in March last year. Business performance has approved. End of Feb move much quicker on process
- Will provide another update in a few months time.

**Update from Member of Taskforce from Co-ops UK**

- Sending out letters to department on International Year of Cooperative

**Actions**

- Member of Taskforce would like to do short presentation on society legal models for Co-ops and Mutuals, MTF agreed to this, could do next month.

**Update from the Cabinet Office**

- MIS been launched, a lot of interest and hits
- How do we make the system well known, what other options are there? There are opportunities to promote across MTF networks etc
- Open Public Services White Paper going through Ministers for discussion, launch towards late February. Second phase will be short, condensed not traditional White paper.

**Actions**

- Have MTF members got ideas for promotion of MIS?
- Officials to send link and information on MIS so it can be promoted.

**Action Plan****Update on Progress**

- There is a long list of achievements. Many milestones have been met.
- MTF commented: we are progressing, we want to be on target, step change can be seen in how MTF works. MTF has got going, demand is good. Don't underestimate major achievements.
- Can the MTF have a role in pushing depts/priority service areas?

**Mutualisation as an Option:**

**How it should progress**

- Ideas on method for mutualisation, another level of depth of what priorities might be – could this be presented at the next meeting?
- Officials set out three broad categories for focus of work:
  1. Securing existing progress
  2. Looking for new areas and progressing these
  3. Working across allied policy areas e.g. Community Right to Challenge
- It will be important to have a sense of the scale and ambition in each area
- Members of Taskforce and officials doing analytical work and will help inform development of MTF priorities

**Action**

- The Chair will have 1:1's with each member to discuss structure of final report.
  - Contributions on final report will be essential, each member may wish to take responsibility for sections of the report.
- Members of Taskforce to present decision tree work at next MTF meeting to begin to develop MTF's work on priority areas
- Chair and officials to consider role of MTF in pushing depts and service areas.

**Additional Activity the MTF could take forward**

- Road shows generating more demand
- Expert witness sessions:
  - Member of Taskforce from Co-ops UK to ask academic colleague from Canada to attend, late February?
  - Expert from Social Stock Exchange?
  - Cooperatives Schools
  - Local partnerships
- To send MTF dates for April, May and June meetings.
- Buddying – to send comments to officials for next meeting. Officials will send template.
- No decision made yet whether to continue Mutuals Taskforce further than the summer.