

MUTUALS TASKFORCE MEETING
Thursday 8th March, 2012
1 Horseguards Road
14.30-17.30

MINUTES

Attendees

Chair: Julian Le Grand	Rachel Wolf
Patrick Lewis	Nita Clarke
Jo Pritchard	Iain Hasdell
Peter Marsh	Ed Mayo
Crown Commercial Representative for Mutuals	

Officials

Head of Mutuals Programme
OCS Officials

Apologies

Peter Holbrook
Donna Fallows

Welcome and Introductions:

- Welcome Iain Hasdell – Employee Ownership Association

Chair update:

- The Government's independent adviser on employee ownership has been asked for a report on the prospects of mutuals across the existing private sector of the British economy. Cabinet Office officials work closely with BIS on this, and it is important that the TF report lines up with this report.
- Independent adviser on employee ownership should be invited to the April TF meeting.
- The government procurement officer should be invited to the April TF meeting.
- Officials working with Taskforce members to organise a schools roundtable.
- Email address: TF agreed to have it promoted and have questions sent to them when appropriate.

Update from Cabinet office:

- MSP up and running well. OPS- publication anticipated imminently
- MCO- talked a lot about mutuals in the recent policy exchange speech. Went to Rochdale to visit Rochdale Boroughwide housing which is becoming a mutual.
- There have been various positive developments across departments on mutuals.
- Policy work is progressing well across Departments and service areas – including probation, youth services and children's centres, adult skills, as

well as with pathfinder projects in adult social work.

Co-operative consolidation Bill

- There is much confusing and conflicting legislation that hinders people from using this legal form for businesses.
- This Act is to simplify the legal framework.
- Liaising with the law commissioner.
- Part of European Year of the Cooperative, UK is the first to simplify the legislation.

Mutualisation as an option:

- To be used as basis for TF discussions.
- Not practical, but needs to be applied. Can be used as a tool to explore whether a sector is appropriate.
- More detailed comments should be sent to officials.
- Draft to be presented back to TF at the meeting on May 10th.