

# BALANCED **MIGRATION**



## **Response to New Immigration Figures**

**19 November 2008**

Statement from the Co-Chairmen of the Cross Party Group on Balanced Migration, Nicholas Soames MP and Frank Field MP in response to today's figures on immigration:

“Today's figures will come as a shock to Ministers. Net migration is much higher than expected – up by nearly 25 per cent to almost a quarter of a million in one year, and very close to the record in 2004. This means immigration has directly added a million people to the UK's population in the period 2003-07. Between 1997 and 2007, the population of London and the South East alone has increased by just over a million as a result of immigration, even allowing for emigration by British citizens. Unless firm action is taken very soon, our population will hit 70 million even earlier than the Government's present forecast of 2028. There is no way in which our public services can cope with such a rapid increase. Nor can we possibly build the necessary houses on remotely this timescale. We need to balance migration – and balance it soon.”