

ENTERPRISE EMPLOYMENT & MAJOR PROJECTS CABINET MEMBER MEETING

Agenda Item 21

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject:	Social Enterprise Strategy Action Plan & Equalities Impact assessment (EIA)		
Date of Meeting:	15th September 2009		
Report of:	Director of Culture & Enterprise		
Contact Officer:	Name:	John Routledge	Tel: 291112
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Key Decision:	No		
Wards Affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 This Action Plan and Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) are developments from the Social Enterprise Strategy approved by council in September 2008 (Cabinet Member Meeting: 16 Sept). They complete the set of reports needed to start implementing a robust and inclusive city-wide social enterprise strategy
- 1.2 Cabinet Member is asked to approve the action plan and EIA to enable implementation of the social enterprise strategy to proceed.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (1) To approve the Social Enterprise Strategy Action Plan
- (2) To approve the Social Enterprise Strategy EIA

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 The Brighton & Hove Social Enterprise Strategy was approved by council in August 2008 following extensive consultation by the Business Community Partnership (BCP) with stakeholders across the city
- 3.2 Since August 2008, BCP has been developing an action plan and EIA in partnership with the council and the cross-sector social enterprise steering group convened by BCP

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Internally consultation on the action plan and EIA has taken place with officers in the Communities Team, Policy Team, Equalities & Inclusion Team and European Team
- 4.2 Externally consultation has taken place with the cross-sector social enterprise steering group, including members from Business Link (Sussex), Brighton University, Brighton Housing Trust, Business Community Partnership, 7 Creative and Big Lemon Bus company

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

5.1 Financial Implications:

The Communities Team within Strategy & Governance has a budget of £2.032m in 2009-10, of which £1.554m is payment of the grants programme. The Strategy proposals will continue to require officer support time from within the directorate, and the continuation of grant payments to the social enterprises within the City. These costs are expected to be met within the budget of the directorate.

In addition a total of £35,000 has been secured from BASIS & £22,000 from Capacity Builders to support associated activities with a further £25,000 of Local Area Business Growth Incentive (LABGI) monies agreed in principle.

Finance Officer Consulted: Peter Francis: Accountant Date: 19 August 2009

5.2 Legal Implications:

The Cabinet Member for Enterprise, Employment & Major Projects has authority to agree the recommendations set out at paragraph 2 above.

There are no other legal implications arising from this report.

Lawyer Consulted: Oliver Dixon: Lawyer

Date: 19 August 2009

5.3 Equalities Implications:

This report includes an extract from the completed Equalities Impact Assessment identifying prioritised actions emerging from the assessment. They will be made SMART in meetings planned with the BCP staff to commence in September 2009.

5.4 Sustainability Implications:

Environmental sustainability is a major driver for the start up and growth of social enterprises in Brighton & Hove. Implementation of the strategy will lead to a growth of sustainable consumption and production of goods and services and help build more sustainable communities across Brighton & Hove.

5.5 Crime & Disorder Implications:

Dependent on the nature of specific social enterprise activity there may be associated implications around reducing crime & disorder.

5.6 Risk & Opportunity Management Implications:

There are risks attached to any enterprise activity. Social enterprise is vulnerable to the same pressures as small businesses, particularly in an economic downturn. Key issues on the horizon include the establishing of the Social Enterprise Foundation, the Network Organisation and the Social Enterprise Centre. As the strategy builds support available to social enterprises, these risks will be minimised.

Risks attached to not implementing a social enterprise strategy include the loss of opportunities to diversify the local economy, create jobs and access external funding.

5.7 Corporate / Citywide Implications:

Actions in the strategy can support a number of council priorities as outlined, for example, in the corporate plan and local area agreement. Key examples are:

- Protecting the environment while growing the economy, Better Use of public money, Reduce Inequality by increasing opportunity (Corporate Plan)
- Encouraging a thriving third sector, community engagement and volunteering (Local Area Agreement)

6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):

6.1 Alternative options for the strategy were considered and rejected during 2007/08.

7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 To actively recognise the actual and potential contribution of social enterprise to the prosperity of the city, including business activity, job creation, training and volunteering

7.2 To actively recognise the actual and potential contribution of social enterprise to the social, environmental and cultural life of the city

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Action Plan and sub-appendix outlining strategic links
2. Extract of Equalities Impact Assessment identifying prioritised actions

Documents in Members' Rooms

1. None.

Background Documents

1. Social Enterprise Strategy as approved by council in September 2008