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| Subject: | Inclusive Cities Project | | |
| Date of Meeting: | 26th September 2019 | | |
| Report of: | Executive Director for Neighbourhoods, Communities & Housing | | |
| Contact Officer: | Name: | Lucy Bryson | Tel: 01273292572 |
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| Ward(s) affected: | (All Wards); | | |

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT

- 1.1 The report describes the Inclusive Cities project that Brighton & Hove has been invited to join and the commitments expected of the local authority if we are to become part of this project.
- 1.2 The report also describes the benefits of Brighton & Hove joining this project and the ways in which it would enhance the city's work on diversity, inclusion, equalities and Brighton and Hove's status as a City of Sanctuary.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Committee agree to Brighton & Hove City Council joining eleven other UK local authorities as part of the Inclusive Cities project which runs from now until June 2022.
- 2.2 That the Committee agree that the elected member representative to work on this project will be Councillor Grimshaw, lead member for equalities, alongside the operational lead within the Communities, Equality and Third Sector Team.
- 2.3 That the committee note that the task force to lead this piece of work – as required for participation in the project (see paragraph 3.3) will form a sub-group of and report into the city's Equality and Inclusion Partnership.

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 [Inclusive Cities](#) is a knowledge exchange initiative funded by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation which has, since March 2017, facilitated peer learning between 6 UK cities (currently Bristol, Cardiff, Liverpool, Glasgow, Peterborough and London). It aims to deliver a step change in the approach to the inclusion of newcomers at the local level. Facilitated by the Global Exchange on Migration and Diversity at the Centre on Migration Policy and Society ([COMPAS](#)), at the University of Oxford, it draws on research expertise to inform the development of an action plan delivering tangible change in its key priority areas. A Taskforce of senior stakeholders is appointed by each city to drive forward the work.

- 3.2 Brighton & Hove has been formally invited to participate in the next phase of Inclusive Cities which will run from June 2019-June 2022 and which expands the original six to twelve participating cities. The local authority will be supported by the Director of the Global Exchange on Migration and Diversity, Jacqui Broadhead and their researcher Denis Kierans to develop an action plan based on the newly launched Inclusive Cities Framework and will have the opportunity to share and promote learning between the cities and to participate in knowledge exchange and learning through a partnership with Welcoming International, a similar initiative in the United States.
- 3.3 No financial commitment is required. However the following is required from each participating city:
- A commitment to developing an Inclusive Cities action plan, in partnership with a Taskforce of senior stakeholders and to monitor and report on progress against this plan using the Inclusive Cities Framework, developed in partnership with the 6 founder Inclusive Cities. It is proposed that this is formed as a sub group of the Equalities and Inclusion Partnership with includes representation from across the City Council and other public sector bodies, the universities, voluntary and community sector and the Chamber of Commerce.
 - A named senior sponsor for the project (either an elected official at Leader/ or Executive level or an officer at chief Executive or Director level) and one operational lead for the project. This would be the Community Safety Manager – Refugees and Migrants, based in the Communities, Equality and Third Sector (CETS) Team within the Neighbourhood, Communities and Housing Directorate.
 - A commitment that the senior and operational sponsors will commit to attending 5 city convenings over the course of the project (including the first meeting in Cardiff 23rd/24th October 2019) and one European exchange in 2021 as well as bilateral learning exchanges between cities on particular topics. Costs are covered by the project.
 - A commitment that, subject to further confirmation of the details, Brighton & Hove will host a convening of the Inclusive Cities.
- 3.4 For their part, COMPAS will make the arrangements for, and cover the expenses of, the meetings and European learning exchange; provide the support of their project manager throughout the project, assist in raising any funds that might be needed in the city to implement the action plan, and provide opportunities for BHCC to profile the city’s work at national and international level. They commit to respecting the confidentiality of information relating to the city which is not in the public domain.

4. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1 At a time when reports of hate crime are increasing and there are concerns about the rise of extremist narratives, in particular those that target migrant groups, there is currently no overarching plan to promote community cohesion in Brighton & Hove.
- 4.2 The needs and assets of Brighton & Hove’s migrant populations were examined in the [International Migrants Needs Assessment](#) (published as part of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment in January 2018). Progress against the forty two recommendations arising from this document was last reported to the

Neighbourhood, Inclusion, Communities and Equality Committee on 11th March 2019.

- 4.3 Recommendation 5 states '*City and community leaders to continue to promote the integration of migrants into the life of the city*'. In this context the term 'integration' is seen as a process which equips new residents with the skills and confidence to flourish in the city while city services and communities adapt to welcome them. Support to develop a coherent strategy or approach which also addresses the inclusion of more established migrant communities and the wider population would be a beneficial outcome of involvement in the Inclusive Cities project.
- 4.4 Recommendation 6 states that the city should '*Maintain and develop local commitment to City of Sanctuary status*'. Support for Brighton & Hove's City of Sanctuary status was also included in the and followed up with a motion to the Policy Resources and Growth Committee with an amendment to 'Our People Promise' to include more effective methods to support the recruitment of refugees into work..
- 4.5 The City of Sanctuary movement relates primarily to creating a culture of welcome for those fleeing danger and seeking sanctuary (ie refugees and asylum seekers).. There are many local third sector groups and community initiatives working to improve the lives of refugees and asylum seekers. Discovering what changes we could implement in partnership with these groups to further enhance our status as a City of Sanctuary - and implementing these changes – is a further expected benefit of involvement in this Project.
- 4.6 The Inclusive Cities project would help us to place this work within a wider programme to support any newcomers to the UK who have arrived in Brighton & Hove, -particularly those who are more vulnerable, as well as the process by which these migrants settle and develop a sense of belonging in the city alongside established migrant communities and the wider population. This in turn could be reflected in the corporate strategy and, in turn at a city-wide strategy level.

5 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The process of writing the International Migrants Needs Assessment (IMNA) was assisted and advised by a Steering group comprising a wide range of statutory and voluntary sector organisations with a specialism in supporting refugees and migrants. Whilst the group has not been reconvened since the production of the IMNA, members of this group could join the new Taskforce, alongside members of EQUIP.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The Inclusive Cities Project would provide the council and the city with insight into new approaches through our partner cities as well as the rigorous evidence-based work and recommendations from COMPAS who are a very highly regarded academic institute in the field of migration.

6.2 It would provide the framework and corporate commitment for a more strategic approach to the creation of an Inclusive city.

7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

7.1 The project does not require any financial commitment from BHCC. Any staff involvement will be manageable from within existing resources.

Finance Officer Consulted: Michael Bentley

Date: 09/08/19

Legal Implications:

7.2 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

Lawyer Consulted: Elizabeth Culbert

Date: 09/09/19

Equalities Implications:

7.3 The recommendations propose a way for us to address inequalities facing migrants in Brighton & Hove, as outlined in the International Migrants Needs Assessment within the wider context of encouraging the development of a city culture which is inclusive of all residents.

Sustainability Implications:

7.4 A stronger and more cohesive community will be more likely to recognise and make best use of local assets.

Any Other Significant Implications:

7.5 None

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Other Implications

Background Documents

1. None

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 1.1 This proposals in this report aim to improve community cohesion and address community tensions through the inclusion of newcomers and others in the community who are marginalised and may be vulnerable to exploitation or being drawn into criminal activity.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 1.3 There is a risk that the project is perceived as prioritising migrants to the city over and above established communities and community members. The membership of the task force will be carefully considered to be as inclusive as possible and communications related to this project will also be carefully considered to avoid this perception.
This project is an opportunity to take forward our work on cohesion by learning from other cities.

Public Health Implications:

- 1.4 The proposals will help address recommendations as outlined in the International Migrants Needs Assessment, produced by the Public Health Team which focus on addressing inequalities in health and the wider determinants of health including our approach to inclusion and integration.

