



**Brighton & Hove
City Council**

A European & International Strategy for Brighton & Hove City Council

2007-2013

July 2007

1. INTRODUCTION

This strategy provides Brighton & Hove City Council with a framework for action in European and international activity for 2007-13. This strategy has a six-year time span in line with the current EU financial planning period and the lifetime of many of the key EU funding programmes, including the Structural Funds.

This is the city council's first corporate international strategy; previous strategies have focused on European activity. As global connections increase, the distinction between geographically defined activities is less relevant, so it is helpful to draw together all European and international activity under a single corporate international strategy, providing a more coordinated and coherent approach.

2. VISION

The vision of Brighton & Hove as presented in the sustainable community strategy '*Creating the City of Opportunities*' is one of a dynamic city that improves and protects the environment, meets social needs and promotes sustainable economic success in an inclusive, just and harmonious way.

Effective engagement with the wider world will help deliver this sustainable community strategy by enabling the city to increase opportunities for its residents, attract investment, promote the image of Brighton & Hove internationally, provide low-cost staff development and training and learn from others through the sharing of ideas, information and experience, with the aim of improving service delivery and policy development.

This international strategy will contribute to the successful delivery of the Brighton & Hove sustainable community strategy, supporting activity in the following eight priority thematic areas:

- Promoting enterprise and learning
- Reducing crime and improving safety
- Improving health and well-being
- Strengthening communities and involving people
- Improving housing and affordability
- Promoting resource efficiency and enhancing the environment
- Promoting sustainable transport
- Providing quality services

Involvement in European and international activity will also help deliver the city council's four strategic priorities as set out in the 2006/7 Corporate Plan:

- 'Prosperity': develop a prosperous and sustainable economy
- 'Care': develop a safe city that cares that values our unique environment
- 'Healthy': develop a healthy city that cares for vulnerable people and tackles deprivation and injustice
- 'Nurture': ensure all our children and young people have the best possible start in life

This strategy will help the city council deliver the corporate objectives and contribute to the delivery of the Sustainable Community Strategy by providing a framework to:

- develop, and exchange, good practice with international partners and networks with the aim of enhancing policy development and improving service delivery
- attract European and international funding to deliver local priorities
- influence EU policy and legislation that may impact on the city
- raise the profile of Brighton & Hove internationally
- increase global awareness, particularly amongst our young people
- share information on international activities and opportunities with officers, elected members, local stakeholders and regional partners
- provide staff, elected members and stakeholders with low cost development and training

3. LOCAL, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL CONTEXT

3.1. Local

As the newest of the south coast cities, Brighton and Hove is recognised by many for its vibrancy which is evident in its attractive setting, economic activity and within the cultures of the people who live, work and visit. The city has a population of approximately 251,000, and 33% of residents are aged 25-44 years. With a healthy local economy and good transport links to London, backed with a high “quality of life” factor for those living in the city, demand for housing is keen. The 32,000 students and the in-migration of highly educated people make the city’s workforce amongst the most highly educated in the country. 5.8% of the resident population is from a non-white ethnic minority background, lower than the national average, but higher than the average for the South East region. The large lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgender communities in the city are believed to be amongst the highest in the country.

The city benefits from around 8 million visitors a year wanting to experience an almost unique combination of urban, coastal, rural, cultural and leisure opportunities. Each year around 35,000 students visit Brighton & Hove to study at one of city’s 23 language schools. Every May Brighton & Hove hosts the largest arts festival in England and the city’s vibrancy also gains expression through the architecture within the city containing internationally renowned Regency terraces and the Royal Pavilion, as well as some more contemporary “classics”.

Since the mid-1990s Brighton & Hove has emerged as the key driver of the central South East coastal economy. The strong skills base, the creative and innovative nature of the economy and the city's ability to attract and nurture talent have all contributed to its strong economic performance and since 2002, the economy has continued to grow at around 5% per year. Economic momentum has increased with the growth of new media and financial service sectors and expanding leisure, tourism and creative and cultural industries. There is currently a £2 billion programme of physical regeneration projects planned for the city, some recently completed such as the Jubilee library and others which are underway including the King Alfred and the Brighton Centre.

However, the local economy is not without its challenges. The Regional Economic Strategy has set a regional objective for 85% economic activity of residents in the South East by 2016. At present the economic activity for Brighton & Hove is 80.6% compared to the regional rate of 82.1%. Unemployment remains above national and regional rates and average earnings for employees in the city are below the national mean. The city is over-

reliant on lower and intermediate service sector employment, despite the high skills level of some of its population. Issues of particular significance for the local economy are house prices, skills levels and transport to and within the city.

The city includes some areas where social and economic deprivation are at significant levels. Within the South East, Brighton & Hove City Council ranks the second 'most deprived' in terms of the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2004 overall score. There are more than 40,000 adult residents who do not hold any qualification. Educational attainment at 16 is slightly below the national average with the number of young people in Brighton & Hove who are 'Not in Education, Employment or Training' at about 10%, significantly higher than the regional average. Overall people in Brighton & Hove have poorer health than in other parts of the South East and there are pockets of serious health deprivation. Relatively high numbers experience mental health problems and the incidence of drug-related deaths are amongst the highest in the country. HIV infection is a key health issue and there is a relatively high rate of teenage pregnancies.

The big challenges we face are those that arise out of our success. Long-term economic sustainability; housing need; transport infrastructure; ensuring all our residents have the initial start in life and then the skills necessary to access new jobs; community safety; public health and tackling long-term social disadvantage are all key issues for the city in maintaining that much valued quality of life.

Brighton & Hove City Council has a strong track record in engaging in European activity, particularly in terms of participating in European networks and partnerships and drawing down European Union funding. The total amount of European Union funding accessed by Brighton & Hove is approximately £35m since the creation of the unitary authority for Brighton & Hove in 1997. This total figure does not include the large amounts of R&D and innovation funding accessed by the two universities. Of this £35m, approximately £12.75m has been secured by the city council over the same period. Key sources of funding include Interreg IIA (£2.75m), ESF (£14.5m), URBAN (£2.5m), EQUAL (£5.3m) and Interreg IIIA (£8.6m).

This European activity has been implemented in a strategic way through the framework of the council's European strategy (2001-6). Now the strategic focus has been expanded to cover international activity more widely with the aim of providing a more structured framework for engaging in international work.

Whilst this is the first corporate international strategy, the council is not new to international activity. Such initiatives include:

- Membership of the WHO Healthy Cities Network (Brighton & Hove City PCT / Housing & City Support)
- Numerous school to school and LEA international links including Russia, West Africa, South Africa and the United States
- Visit Brighton international destination marketing
- Many one-off visits by international delegations, co-ordinated through the Mayor's office, Leadership office and council departments
- Working with key minority ethnic communities within the city, for example, through provision of council support to the Chinese Education Development Project.

In developing this strategy, the city council is responding to positive stakeholder feedback around collaborative working on European and international issues. The council organised an independent review of citywide international activity in early 2007: this included written and face-to-face feedback from internal and external stakeholders on existing activity and potential for future joint working.

3.2. Regional

In the South East of England the Regional Development Agency's main international economic goals are embedded in the Regional Economic Strategy which was published in 2006 and sits alongside the draft South East Plan as the region's spatial strategy. The focus is on maintaining the region's competitiveness in the face of intensifying international competition. The strategy highlights opportunities from the emergence of *"new global economic powerhouses such as China and India"* to *"build on the existing concentrations of excellence in the South East by becoming more enterprising, innovative and skilled"*.

In order to respond to this global challenge, the strategy states that the region will need to:

- expose many more of its businesses to the stimulus of global markets through interchanges of trade, investment, people and knowledge
- build trade links with emerging economic powerhouses which are as strong as those the region's businesses already have with Europe and the USA, through the development of trade, investment and collaboration in education and innovation
- collaborate to innovate across regional, national and continental borders
- raise skills levels to match improvements elsewhere in the global economy, recognising that creating quality jobs must go hand in hand with achieving global competitiveness
- create an entrepreneurial spirit across all businesses in all sectors that seeks out new opportunities and new markets, rather than relying on existing products, processes and supply chains.

The strategy also includes more targeted priorities for different parts of the region and for the Coastal South East it recognises a need to raise the quality of the offer to visitors. It also cites Brighton & Hove as one of the eight areas with potential to be *"economic catalysts for the region as a whole"*.

3.3. National

In 2006 the Local Government Association (LGA) published an International Policy that aims to promote the concept of international cooperation as a whole. Its objectives are:

- To encourage more involvement in international cooperation
- To raise awareness of the existing level of activity and highlight the potential role for local government in international cooperation
- To emphasise the equal validity of all forms of activity, ranging from formal twinning to development cooperation
- To outline the variety of benefits available and their direct relationship to the function of local government
- To lend more legitimacy and therefore confidence to local government involvement in international cooperation.

This LGA policy welcomes the involvement of local authorities in international partnerships and asks that each local authority:

- Becomes more actively involved in all forms of international cooperation

- Adopts an international policy and develops a strategy for engagement and activities
- Appoints an elected member to promote the international dimension.

In 2005 the Department for Education & Skills published *'Putting the World into World-Class Education: an international strategy for education, skills and children's services'* which covers a range of national policy initiatives that promote the international dimension in education. More recently in April 2006 Tony Blair announced the second phase of the Prime Minister's Initiative for International Education (PMI), which aims to attract an additional 100,000 overseas students to study in the UK and encourage partnerships between universities and colleges in the UK and overseas.

4. STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

This strategy aims to support the delivery of the Sustainable Community Strategy and help Brighton and Hove to be an outward-facing dynamic city engaging in international activity, and in particular, playing a full part in the European Union (EU) and deriving maximum benefit from EU membership.

The four strategic objectives for European and international work during 2007-13 are:

- Maximising European and international funding into the city
- Networking and forging European and international partnerships
- Disseminating relevant and timely European and international information
- Promoting the city council policy agenda at all levels and sharing good practice on policy development

4.1. Maximising European and International funding into the city

The city council will maximise receipts of European Union (EU) funding in line with the corporate strategic objectives and the Sustainable Community Strategy, and to support organisations across the city in accessing EU funding. In addition, the city council prioritises bidding to other international funding sources, in particular, those supporting international education activity.

Whilst the main focus is on EU funding, due to the wider availability and accessibility of funds, international funding streams will also be targeted. Particular support will be given to accessing international education funding streams, such as British Council international programmes and the DfES Teacher International Professional Development (TIPD) programme. There is a range of national policy initiatives that promote the international dimension in education, most are included in the DfES *'Putting the World into World-Class Education: an international strategy for education, skills and children's services'* (2005). There are numerous school to school and LEA international links already in place, and there is real opportunity for further development in this area, linking in with the City Languages Strategy and building upon the excellent work of local schools and colleges. For example, Hove Park School won a British Council *International School Award* in 2005, a three-year accreditation for their international curriculum work.

With approximately 300 EU funding programmes in existence, it is important that the council avoids being funding-driven. The council adopts a strategic approach to bidding for European and international funds ensuring that any bids fit well with the corporate strategic priorities. The council has developed a corporate bidding protocol to ensure, for example,

that bids are properly resourced and the necessary match funding is in place. Information on European and international bids will be logged on the council's GrantTracker database. Information on bidding opportunities will be shared with the Corporate Bidding Group, which is chaired by the Director of Property & Finance and includes representation from all council directorates.

The city council prioritises its European and international bidding activity, in the main, to the following EU and international funding programmes¹ set out in the following table:

Community Strategy Priority	City council strategic priority	Potential Funding Stream
Promoting enterprise and learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop a prosperous and sustainable economy ▪ Ensure all our children and young people have the best possible start in life 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DfiD Global Schools Partnerships ▪ DfES Teacher International Professional Development (TIPD) programme ▪ British Council funding programmes to promote the international dimension in education ▪ Links Schools Programme ▪ UK-German Connection ▪ European Social Fund (ESF) ▪ Leonardo ▪ Tempus Plus ▪ EU - Canda Cooperation programme ▪ Comenius ▪ Grundtvig ▪ Transversal programme (LLL) ▪ Interreg IVA ▪ Interreg IVB ▪ Interreg IVC ▪ South East Regional Competitiveness programme ▪ Entrepreneurship & Innovation Programme, (CIP) ▪ E-learning programme ▪ Culture 2007 ▪ Media Plus
Reducing crime and improving safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop a safe city that values our unique environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Interreg IVA ▪ Interreg IVC ▪ Daphne III
Improving health and well-being	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop a healthy city that cares for vulnerable people and tackles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Public Health programme ▪ FP7 - Health ▪ Interreg IVA ▪ Interreg IVC

¹ Following the introduction of new EU funding programmes, in line with the strategic priorities of Brighton & Hove City Council, this list will be amended accordingly.

Community Strategy Priority	City council strategic priority	Potential Funding Stream
	deprivation and injustice	
Strengthening communities and involving people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop a healthy city that cares for vulnerable people and tackles deprivation and injustice ▪ Ensure all our children and young people have the best possible start in life 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Youth in Action ▪ PROGRESS ▪ Interreg IVA ▪ Interreg IVC ▪ EU – Canada Cooperation programme ▪ Citizens for Europe
Improving housing and affordability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop a healthy city that cares for vulnerable people and tackles deprivation and injustice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Interreg IVA ▪ Interreg IVC
Promoting resource efficiency and enhancing the environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop a safe city that values our unique environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Interreg IVA ▪ Interreg IVB ▪ Interreg IVC ▪ South East Regional Competitiveness programme ▪ Intelligent Energy Europe (CIP) ▪ LIFE + ▪ CONCERTO ▪ Asia Pro Eco II
Promoting sustainable transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop a prosperous and sustainable economy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Interreg IVA ▪ Interreg IVB ▪ Interreg IVC ▪ CIVITAS Plus (FP7) ▪ Transport grants (DG TREN)
Providing quality services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop a safe city that values our unique environment ▪ Develop a prosperous and sustainable economy ▪ Develop a healthy city that cares for vulnerable people and tackles deprivation and injustice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Commonwealth Local Government Forum (DfID) ▪ Interreg IVA ▪ Interreg IVC ▪ ICT Policy Support programme

Community Strategy Priority	City council strategic priority	Potential Funding Stream
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure all our children and young people have the best possible start in life 	

In addition to accessing EU funds, in 2007-8 the city council will contribute to the development of the new regional EU structural fund programmes, with the aim of ensuring that they reflect local priorities. In particular:

- The two new Interreg IVA cross-border cooperation programmes in collaboration with partners along the south coast of England, northern coast of France, and coastal areas in Belgium and the Netherlands. The programmes will be aligned to the 'Lisbon and Gothenburg Agendas' in terms of a focus on delivering sustainable growth and jobs, and are likely to support activities in the fields of economic development, culture, tourism, environment, social inclusion, health, education & training and R&D. The city council will contribute to the Programme Development Working Groups and participate in the wider Reference Group. Brighton & Hove has a strong track record in attracting Interreg IIA and IIIA funds and has developed numerous cross-Channel partnerships, it is important to build on this strength, promote project successes to date and provide technical expertise for the development of the new programmes.
- The city council participates in the Reference Group for the development of the South East Competitiveness Programme which is likely to focus on the themes of the knowledge economy and sustainable production and consumption.

4.2. *Networking and forging partnerships*

The city council represents and promotes the interests of Brighton & Hove in European and international fora at regional, national and European levels and exchanges ideas, information and experience with other European cities facing similar challenges. By working in association with other towns and cities across Europe on issues of common interest, Brighton & Hove can achieve increased influence in the policy-making process at European level. The city council will also promote sharing of European and international expertise and opportunities with local stakeholder organisations.

Networking and partnership working are not only beneficial activities in terms of exchanging best practice and ideas with the aim of improving service delivery, they are usually essential components of EU project development.

Whilst prioritising the networks and partnerships listed below, the city council takes an 'opportunistic' approach to developing international partnerships, and does not limit future activity to specific geographic locations to the exclusion of others. Brighton & Hove City Council has prioritised its involvement in the following European and international networks:

4.2.1. Local

Internally, in addition to more informal networking on international activity, updates are provided to the Corporate Bidding Group that meets on a two-monthly basis. The European & International Team provides a central focus for coordination of international partnership activity, and all Departments, the Leadership office and the Mayor's office share and feedback relevant information on, for example, inward and outward visits and bids for European and international funding.

The city council will provide a facilitative framework for promoting and exchanging information on international partnerships, networks and projects with local stakeholder organisations, including the two universities, City College, the Economic Partnership, the Primary Care Trust and international communities within the city. Tools to facilitate improved coordination of international activity across the city include the development of a web-based calendar of international visits (inward and outward) and a log of citywide international links, to enable identification of potential synergies and sharing of partners as appropriate. The European & International Team will provide a 'conduit' for exchanging international intelligence locally with the aim of channelling best practice and sharing international links as appropriate.

4.2.2. Regional

- **Southern England Local Partners / South East England House**

Brighton & Hove City Council has shared a Brussels Office with local authority and HE partners across Brighton & Hove, East Sussex and Surrey for the last 10 years. In April 2007 the city council joined a new, enlarged Brussels Office partnership, Southern England Local Partners (SELP), which includes partner organisations from Hampshire, West Sussex and the Thames Valley. As with our previous Brussels Office, SELP is co-located with the Brussels office of the South East regional bodies and the Kent Brussels Office in 'South East England House'. In February 2007, 'South East England House' moved to new offices close to the European Parliament. This new office provides a focal point for lobbying the EU institutions, enabling the region to gain maximum benefit from membership of the EU, and promoting the South East at a European level.

- **South East European Officers Group**

SEEOG enables European Officers to exchange ideas and experience on EU-related issues affecting the South East region and advises the Joint European Committee of the South East of England Development Agency (SEEDA) and the South East of England Regional Assembly.

- **Local Authorities of the South East Region – ESF**

The Local Authorities of the South East Region (LASER) network enables partner organisations to share best practice on issues relating to the European Social Fund. This network also facilitates joint lobbying of Government Departments on regional ESF issues and provides local authority representation on the regional ESF Committee and associated working groups.

4.2.3. National

- **International Coordination Officers Network**

To represent and promote the interests of Brighton & Hove City Council on International Coordination Officers Network (ICON), a national network coordinated by the Local Government Association.

4.2.4. European

- **Eurotowns**

Brighton & Hove City Council currently holds the Presidency of this 21-city network of small and medium sized cities with populations of between 50,000 and 250,000. The network provides a forum for partnership working and a programme of activities to support its policy agenda:

- promoting lifelong learning and the development of education & skills
- growing the knowledge economy
- providing effective, efficient and sustainable mobility
- ensuring that growth is socially inclusive – all in society benefit
- improve the quality of the physical environment.

- **Arc Manche**

South Coast local authorities, including Brighton & Hove City Council, and French regions bordering the Channel have established the Arc Manche network. This partnership promotes the Channel area at European Union level and reinforces Franco-British cooperation between regions on both sides of the Channel through the delivery of joint actions and EU-funded projects.

- **European Cities Tourism network**

Visit Brighton participates in the European Cities Tourism network, exchanging data and good practice with European partner cities.

4.2.5. International

- **WHO Healthy Cities**

The city council and the PCT jointly participate in the World Health Organisation Healthy Cities network and work to develop and implement the WHO Healthy Cities Core Themes (Healthy Urban Planning, Healthy Ageing, Health Impact Assessment, Active Living) in Brighton & Hove.

- **International Congress and Conference Association**

With over 700 members in around 80 countries, the ICCA is the most global organisation within the meetings industry and represents the main specialists in handling, transporting and accommodating international events. Visit Brighton and the Brighton Centre participate in this network.

4.3. Disseminating relevant and timely European and international information

The European & International Team provides information on European Union funding opportunities, policy and legislation, both internally to city council officers and elected members, and externally to organisations across Brighton & Hove. In addition the team provides information on international funding opportunities (particularly in the areas of

education and young people), international policy developments and international local government case studies.

To ensure maximum effectiveness of EU information dissemination, the corporate European & International Team prioritises its information provision work as follows:

- Providing access to European and international information to internal and external clients, including an enquiry service, quarterly newsletter, e-updates, briefings and a targeted e-mail bulletin service.
- Targeting provision of European & international information at particular priority groups including: key council officers, elected members, local schools and colleges, community & voluntary sector and local businesses.
- To facilitate improved two-way information on European and international issues between the European & International Team and all council Departments, for example through the council's Corporate Bidding Group (c.f. 4.2.1)

4.4. Promoting the city council policy agenda at all levels and sharing good practice on policy development

The city council seeks to influence the development of EU policies with particular relevance to the residents of Brighton & Hove. Policies agreed internationally and at the European level have a direct impact on local government and the communities that they serve. Increasingly, local authorities are required to implement EU legislation and work with EU policies across a wide range of service areas: according to the LGA approximately 70% of EU legislation and policy is implemented by local authorities. Much of the city council's lobbying work is undertaken in partnership with other organisations, depending on the particular issue. For example, recent lobbying has been undertaken in partnership with local authorities across the South East and the some of European networks outlined in 4.2.

It is important that Brighton & Hove City Council takes a proactive role in terms of anticipating and influencing the shape of future EU policies and legislation by expressing its opinions to the relevant UK Government Departments, the European Parliament, the European Commission and the Committee of the Regions, amongst other organisations. To ensure maximum influence it is necessary:

- To make more effective use of the services provided by the council's shared Brussels Office to ensure access to pre-launch information on EU funding programmes and early intelligence on new policy initiatives and legislative developments.
- To link with the South East region's 10 MEPs and Committee of the Regions members to ensure that Brighton & Hove City Council priorities are communicated and that the city council is provided with early intelligence on new EU policies and funding programmes.
- To participate fully in the various specialist networks outlined in 4.2 and ensure that Brighton & Hove City Council priorities are clearly communicated.

The city council also shares information on innovative policies with its European and international partners, in order to inform policy development and thereby improve service delivery in Brighton & Hove. The European & International Team supports the organisation and delivery of inward and outward study visits, the involvement of Brighton & Hove City Council in international policy conferences, and circulates international policy information as part of the team's e-bulletin service.

5. IMPLEMENTATION

5.1. Action planning

This six-year strategy will be mainly implemented through the delivery of the annual European & International Team Plan, in cooperation with delivery partners across the council and more widely across the city. This annual work programme contains a series of concrete actions with deadlines that support the delivery of the city council's strategic priorities and the Community Strategy, enabling monitoring and evaluation of progress in implementing this strategy on an annual basis.

5.2. Coordination and monitoring

The European & International Team will maintain a log of all city council international activity, coordinating the development of its international partnerships and the implementation of the strategy through the team plan. This log will be published on city council website and updated on an on-going basis (minimum 4 times per year). Information on European and international bidding activity and opportunities will be shared at the Corporate Bidding Group. Working with the Mayor's Office, Leadership Office and the offices of Directors the European & International Team will develop and maintain a calendar of international visits (inward and outward) this will be updated on an on-going basis (minimum once per month) and made available on the Brighton & Hove City Council website.

5.3. Identification of opportunities

Using funding programme information, the European & international activity log, and the calendar of visits, the European & International Team will proactively identify potential international links and activities for city council services, in line with corporate priorities. It will motivate and assist city council services to look at the international potential in their own areas of work. The European & International Team will provide an annual report to each DMT outlining key European and international opportunities linking to the relevant Directorate Development Plan.

5.4. Strategic decision making on taking up international opportunities

An initial draft *Checklist for Assessing the Potential of International Activities* contained in Annex 3 provides a tool for this within Council services. Once the process is operational it is envisaged that a checklist would be completed for proposed international work including visits abroad by elected members and officers and submitted to the appropriate DMT, along with a brief summary of the proposed international activity, for approval. This draft will be circulated to DMTs for input and the process finalised in summer 2007.

5.5. Fundraising support

The European & International Team will identify potential funding sources for particular activities and projects, and provide information and advice on potential funding applications to city council services and external organisations across the city. The team will also provide technical assistance on partnership, project development, budgeting, bid writing and management. All these services are available on request and information on funding opportunities will be included in the annual report to DMTs (c.f. 5.3).

5.6. Lead Councillor for European & International Affairs

The city council is nominating a Lead Councillor for European & International Affairs to champion communication and positive action in this area. This councillor has special

responsibility for raising awareness about European and international issues and projects that affect Brighton & Hove (c.f. 6).

5.7. Annual report to the Public Service Board and elected members

The European & International Team will lead on the submission of an annual report to the Public Service Board and elected members reviewing the previous year's activity and setting out potential priorities for the following year.

5.8. Facilitative framework for European and international working with local stakeholders

The city council will provide a facilitative framework for improving the local exchange of information on European and international activity between stakeholder organisations (c.f. 4.2.1). Facilitation tools include the development of a citywide web-based calendar of international visits (inward and outward) and a log of citywide international links, to enable identification of potential synergies and sharing of partners as appropriate. Whilst the calendar and the log will not be comprehensive records of activity, they will provide a picture of international links and help inform future activity. The city council will set up an informal networking forum with local stakeholder organisations on European & international activity in Brighton & Hove.

5.9. Communications

Information on European and international opportunities will be circulated via the European & International Team's e-bulletin service. Within the city council, European & International strategy will be included on TMT, DMT and team meeting agendas as appropriate. Information on European and international funding opportunities and bids in progress will be shared at the Corporate Bidding Group which meets every two months. The city council will set up an informal networking forum with local stakeholder organisations on European and international activity in Brighton & Hove. The European & International Team will produce a quarterly printed newsletter providing updates on the implementation of this strategy and on local European and international activity, with additional quarterly e-updates for elected members.

6. LEAD COUNCILLOR FOR EUROPEAN & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

In line with the Local Government Association International Policy, from 2007 the city council will have a Lead Councillor for European & International Affairs to champion communication and positive action in this area. This councillor has special responsibility for raising awareness about European and international issues and projects that affect Brighton & Hove. In addition, the Lead Councillor for European & International Affairs may represent the city council on several European and international networks including Eurotowns, Arc Manche and WHO Healthy Cities (c.f. 4.2).

7. EUROPEAN & INTERNATIONAL TEAM

The city council's European & International Team is located within Economic Development & Regeneration in the Cultural Services Directorate: there are five posts: European & International Manager, European & International Officer, Interreg Officer, Eurotowns-

Capture Coordinator and Support Officer². In addition, there is an International Development Manager post jointly funded by Housing & City Support and the Brighton & Hove City Primary Care Trust. This post has been key in much of the joint PCT/city council work on Healthy Cities and in working on cross-city initiatives such as EQUAL.

The European & International Team provides:

- Information on EU and international funding opportunities
- Advice and support on the development of EU and international funding bids, including partner searches
- Advice and support on European and international partnership working
- Advice and support on EU and international project implementation
- Information on developments in EU policy and legislation
- Advice and assistance on lobbying on the development of EU policies with local relevance
- Support in organising inward/outward study visits
- City council representation on European networks and partnerships
- City council representation on programme development working groups for new regional EU funding programmes, such as Interreg IVA and the South East England Competitiveness Programme, and any similar group working on regional aspects of the new European Social Fund Programme.
- Corporate link to South East England House, Brussels (c.f. 4.2)
- Secretariat for the Brighton & Hove Eurotowns Presidency (until December 2008) and Lead partner for the CAPTURE knowledge economy project

This strategy forms the key reference document for the development of the annual work programme for the council's European & International Team over the period 2007-2013.

² Two of the posts are externally funded.

Annex 1

Glossary of European & International Funding Programmes

Asia Pro Eco II	This is the merger of the Asia Urbs and Asia Pro Eco programme. It is designed to fund EU-Asia partnership projects in the field of Urban environment. The majority of the project actions have to be carried out in the Asian partner city.
British Council funding programmes	Various programmes supporting the international dimension of education including teacher work shadowing programme, international placements for head teachers and 'Dreams and Teams' that helps to develop young people's leadership skills through sport.
Citizens for Europe	Pilot projects have been undertaken under Action 1, Active Citizens for Europe which should lead to the introduction of a fully-fledged funding stream under this programme in 2008. The project will allow European citizens to act together or debate on common European issues at local and European level.
CIVITAS-Plus	This is part of the Seventh Framework Programme for Research & Development and funds transport projects that support the introduction of innovative, integrated strategies for clean & sustainable urban transport.
Comenius	This is the part of the new Lifelong learning programme aimed at the nursery to FE sector which funds exchanges and travel for school staff and students, trans-national partnership projects between schools and short staff training programmes for those working in the school education sector.
CONCERTO	This is part of the Seventh Framework Programme for Research & Development and funds projects that promote energy efficiency.
Culture 2007	Aimed at the cultural sector. It funds projects that enable: trans-national mobility of workers in the cultural sector, trans-national circulation of the arts, and intercultural dialogue and therefore emphasises similarities and differences at a European level. Projects can be for 1-3 years duration.
Daphne III	This is part of the Civil Justice programme. This will run from 2007 -2013 and funds projects and research into combating violence against women, young people and children.
DfES Teacher	The DfES TIPD programme enables teachers from

International Professional Development (TIPD) Programme	England to experience good educational practice in different countries around the world. It was launched by the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) in May 2000 and has since provided over 10,000 places on short-term visits. Teachers from Primary, Secondary and Special schools in England are all welcome to participate. Flights, accommodation and insurance are covered but not UK travel or cost of supply cover.
DfiD Global Schools Partnerships	Promotes partnerships between schools in the UK with Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean. Reciprocal visit grants of £1900 are available for partnerships in the early stages, and allow a teacher to visit the partner school. Up to £5,400 is available for global curriculum project grants for schools looking to embed the international dimension in the curriculum.
EU – Canada Cooperation programme in HE and VET 2006-2013	As well as HE exchange, it is possible for Youth organisations and workers to undertake job shadowing, study visits and exchanges. At least two member states and two provinces of Canada must be involved in the consortium.
European Social Fund (ESF)	Funds vocational training and other actions to help unemployed people into work and upgrade the skills of those at risk of redundancy. This fund is co-financed by the Learning & Skills Council and Jobcentre Plus who issue tenders to deliver training programmes regionally.
ICT Policy support Programme	This is part of the CIP programme and brings together the eTen, eContent and MODENIS programmes. Projects, best practice and networks will be funded which stimulate the use of innovative ICT based solutions. eContent improves the accessibility and usability of geographical information, cultural content and educational material.
Interreg IVA	Brighton & Hove will be eligible to participate in two cross-border programmes covering the south coast regions of England from Cornwall to Norfolk and north coast of France, Belgium and part of the Netherlands. Budget still to be agreed, but it will be approximately £215 million. The intervention rate will be up to 75%. Negotiations are still underway concerning the thematic priorities. Likely to cover January 2008-December 2013.
Interreg IVB	Transnational projects across the North West Europe area in Brighton & Hove's case. It supports projects which improve connections between different territories or allows them to work together

	on a common spatial problem. E.g. river flooding.
Interreg IVC	Interregional programme which funds networking and exchange of best practice in areas such as innovation, technology transfer and policy coordination across all EU members.
Links Schools Programme	The Link Schools Programme (LSP) is the only programme run in conjunction with ongoing school development programmes in rural Africa, involving over 1500 schools. Linking contributes to, and benefits from, the Link Community Development organisation's many projects in Africa. These projects improve the quality of education for children, encourage sustainable school development and promote global citizenship. Over 800 schools are successfully linked through LCD. There is a financial commitment from UK schools of £500 per year (this can be negotiated for small primary schools). 80% of this supports the LCD project that your partner school benefits from, including a conditional grant. The other 20%, along with further funding from the Department for International Development, allows LCD to support UK schools.
Media Plus	This programme aims to strengthen the competitiveness of the European audiovisual industry, in particular the distribution of audiovisual products produced in the Member States. It funds project development and professional training.
PROGRESS	A new programme providing support to the European Social Agenda including employment measures, working conditions, gender equality, action against discrimination and fighting against social exclusion.
Public Health Programme	The programme has three objectives: to improve citizens' health security; promote health for prosperity and solidarity; and generate and disseminate health knowledge.
South East Competitiveness Programme	Funded through the European Regional Development Fund, one of the structural funds, and can be used for infrastructure and capital costs. There is a small budget allocated to the South East region which will be managed by SEEDA who provide match funding. The four key priorities, set out in the National Strategic Reference framework will include; promoting innovation & knowledge transfer, stimulating enterprise and supporting successful businesses, ensuring sustainable development and building sustainable communities.
Tempus Plus	Lifelong Learning cooperation programme between the EU and the Balkans and the Mediterranean

	area. This will probably start in 2008. Previously Tempus only covered HE education but is now open to all sectors of education.
Transport grants (DG TREN)	The European Commission regularly issues calls for transport projects, these often include road safety projects.
Transversal Programme	Part of the new Lifelong learning programme (2007-2013). This focuses on four key areas Languages, Information & Communications Technology, Policy Co-operation & Innovation and Dissemination. The programme allows co-operation in these key areas from all the sub sectors of the Lifelong learning programme (Comenius, Grundtvig, Erasmus and Leonardo). The ARION and CEDEFOP programmes which promote study visits by Educational Policy makers are under this strand.
UK-German Connection	Dedicated to increasing contacts and understanding between young people in the UK and Germany. There are opportunities for youth and school links with Germany and grants available to put together joint projects. The UK-German Connection information service has been created by merging the activities of the German Links Adviser with 'the-voyage.com' to provide rapid access to and enhanced support for all kinds of opportunities for links with Germany in language, culture and many other fields.
Youth in Action	This programme supports youth projects around the subjects of citizenship and Europe including joint projects and youth worker development opportunities.

Annex 2

Checklist for Assessing the Potential of International Activities

Is the city council the most appropriate organisation locally to get involved in this initiative?	
Will the project / activity contribute to any of city council's four strategic priorities? i.e: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Develop a safe city that values our unique environment2. Develop a prosperous and sustainable economy3. Develop a healthy city that cares for vulnerable people and tackles deprivation and injustice4. Ensure all our children and young people have the best possible start in life Please detail which one(s).	
What is the return on the investment of city council resources?	
Will it provide professional development opportunities for city council staff?	
Does the city council have appropriate skills and capacity?	
Do our potential international partners share our expectations?	
Will it provide other additional opportunities in the medium to long term?	
If not, are the short-term gains worth the initial investment?	