

Subject:	Community Wealth Building		
Date of Meeting:	23 January 2020		
Report of:	Executive Lead, Strategy, Governance & Law		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Giles Rossington	Tel: 01273 295514
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Ward(s) affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT

- 1.1 The Council's Corporate Plan (2019-23) includes a commitment for Brighton & Hove to become the UK's leading city for Community Wealth Building. A programme will be developed to deliver this ambition, under the oversight of a cross-party Member Working Group.
- 1.2 This report seeks approval for the establishment of the cross-party Member Working Group to oversee the Community Wealth Building programme. Draft Terms of Reference for the Steering Group are included as **Appendix 1**.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That members approve the establishment of a cross-party Member Working Group to oversee the Community Wealth Building programme; and
- 2.2 Agree the Steering Group Terms of Reference (**Appendix 1**).

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 Community Wealth Building is a movement that seeks to use the spending power within a local area in ways that maximise benefits to local communities. This can include councils and other major 'anchor institutions' procuring goods and services locally; businesses committing to pay a living wage and actively recruiting from more deprived communities; developing and growing small enterprises, community organisations and cooperatives; exploring the use of physical assets such as land and property to support community growth and resilience; and encouraging greater community participation in decision-making.
- 3.2 The city council has worked with the Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES) to develop a diagnostic of local Community Wealth Building potential. The CLES diagnostic report will inform the development of a local Community Wealth Building programme. The programme will be coordinated by an officer group, with oversight and guidance provided by a cross-party Member Working

Group. The proposed Terms of Reference for the Member Working Group are included as **Appendix 1** to this report.

4. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1 The Community Wealth Building programme could be run without oversight from a cross-party Member Working Group (e.g. progress could periodically be reported to committee). However, this is a policy priority for the Council, as reflected in the Corporate Plan, hence the recommendation to maximise member involvement in and oversight of the programme via a cross-party Working Group.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

- 5.1 None directly for this report. The Community Wealth Building programme will be developed together with local community and voluntary sector organisations and with partners such as the city's universities, NHS bodies etc.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 Members are asked to approve the establishment of a cross-party Member Working Group to oversee the development and implementation of a Community Wealth Building programme.

7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 7.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. Any costs associated with the establishment of the Working Group are expected to be met within existing resources.

Finance Officer Consulted: James Hengeveld

Date: 13/01/2020

Legal Implications:

- 7.2 The proposals in the report are within the powers of the Council and the Policy & Resources Committee has the power to establish working groups relating to its area of service.

Lawyer Consulted: Abraham Ghebre-Ghiorghis

Date: 13/01/2020

Equalities Implications:

- 7.3 None directly for this report. The development of a Community Wealth Building programme is intended to support and grow local communities and consideration of equalities issues will be fundamental to this work.

Sustainability Implications:

- 7.4 None directly for this report. There are obvious synergies between the development of a Community Wealth Building programme and the city carbon reduction programme and the council has already committed to exploring the potential for carbon reduction activity to support community wealth.

Brexit Implications:

- 7.5 It is not yet clear to what degree if any, Brexit may impact upon local workforce capacity, particularly in key areas such as health and care which are currently heavily reliant on EU workers. There may be potential to develop local resources to help fill any gaps in workforce that do emerge, supporting local community growth as well as addressing service needs.

Any Other Significant Implications:

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 7.6 Community Wealth Building is an overarching priority in the Council's Corporate Plan (2019-23). Community Wealth Building approaches typically require the active engagement of 'anchor institutions': large public or private sector bodies whose asset-use, procurement and recruitment policies has the potential to deliver a significant boost to the local economy and to local communities. The city council will seek to work in partnership with these bodies: for example, via a Brighton & Hove Connected Community Wealth Building event scheduled for February 2020.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Community Wealth Building (CWB) Cross-Party Member Working Group: Terms of Reference

Background Documents

None

