

PART A - Initial Impact Assessment

Proposal Name: Establishing a New Partner City Policy

EIA ID: 2408

EIA Author: Nik Hamilton

Proposal Outline:

Sheffield City Council does not currently have any formal Policy in place in respect of responding to approaches to establish new international relationships through such mechanisms as Twinning (sometimes referred to as Sister City agreements), through to entering into such things as Friendship or Collaborative agreements. The Council regularly receives approaches to forge new relationships, whether this is to enter into specific agreements or simply to host a visiting delegation. There is a need for clear objectives and decision-making criteria for entering into any Twinning / Sister City agreements or developing new less formal international links; identifying outputs and outcomes and the potential to link with key partners to help achieve wider benefits for the city and its residents. Given Sheffield's broad range of existing international links, with a variety of terminology in place, the proposal is to establish a clear Partner City Policy, so called to ensure consideration of each of these arrangements, and to provide a framework for: a). Assessing new approaches, and b). Reviewing the effectiveness of existing international relationships. This Policy will form an integral part of a wider International Strategy, to be developed in due course.

Proposal Type: Non-Budget

Year Of Proposal: 23/24

Lead Director for proposal: Kate Martin

Service Area:

EIA Start Date: 18/10/2023

Lead Equality Objective: Leading the city in celebrating and promoting inclusion

Equality Lead Officer: Bashir Khan

Decision Type

Committees: Policy Committees

- Strategy & Resources

Portfolio

Primary Portfolio: City Futures

EIA is cross portfolio: No

EIA is joint with another organisation: No

Overview of Impact

Overview Summary:

There are implications and risks organisationally and City-wide for Sheffield in continuing to operate in a more 'ad hoc' manner in respect of international relationships and partnership work. At present, there is no framework in place to consider the implications of particular alliances with identified cities and/or countries. The concern is that we could unwittingly be associating the City Council with questionable regimes that do not fit comfortably with our own organisation's aims, objectives and values. Without any agreed due diligence procedures in place, we could inadvertently be linked with locations that might have less than desirable Human Rights records, for example. The proposed Partner City Policy will have agreed

assessment criteria to consider opportunities, going forward, and a clear rationale for the Council to be able to say 'No' if an approach does not fit with our stated aims. As part of the assessment criteria, consideration will be given in respect of the synergies between the two locations., for example: Is the location a good match for Sheffield in terms of: Population profiles (e.g. age, gender, race); Are there pre-existing links with the partner, city or network in respect of projects, networks or people to people dialogue? Is there an existing diaspora community in Sheffield? Are there significant numbers of international students from the country of origin studying in Sheffield?

Impacted characteristics:

- Cohesion
- Partners
- Race
- Religion/Belief

Consultation and other engagement

Cumulative Impact

Does the proposal have a cumulative impact:

No

Impact areas:

Year on Year

Initial Sign-Off

Full impact assessment required:

No

Review Date:

18/10/2023

Action Plan & Supporting Evidence

Outline of action plan:

Action plan evidence:

Changes made as a result of action plan:

Mitigation

Significant risk after mitigation measures:

Outline of impact and risks:

Review Date

Review Date:

18/10/2023