



**PURPOSE:** For noting

**MEETING:** Cabinet

**DATE:** 06 September 2022

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>International Strategy Refresh</b>	
<b>Ward(s)</b>	City-wide	
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Caroline Twigg</b>	<b>Job title: Head of International Affairs</b>
<b>Cabinet lead:</b>	<b>Mayor</b>	<b>Executive Director lead: Tim Borrett, Director: Policy, Strategy and Digital</b>
<b>Proposal origin:</b> Other		
<b>Decision maker:</b> For noting <b>Decision forum:</b> For noting		
<p><b>Purpose of Report:</b> Bristol’s International Strategy was written in 2017, recognising the city’s diversity and connections with over 91 languages, 187 countries of birth and 45 religions, its growing international reputation with titles from European Green Capital to City of Sanctuary. The intention was that an international strategy and cross-sector International Board would enable us to have focused and aligned international engagement to bring social and economic benefits to the city.</p> <p>Since the strategy was written, the idea and importance of city diplomacy has gathered momentum, where cities need to have proactive international engagement to influence national and international policy and governance structures that directly impact on our citizens and businesses. This is starting to open channels for the city both nationally and internationally at the UN level, for example shown through the COP26 outcomes. There is also increasing recognition of the soft power of cities internationally through our international diaspora, civic/city links and brokerage, cultural assets and vibrancy, sport, dynamic creative economies, which lead to wider prosperity opportunities through trade and investment but also trusted relations to work together on shared challenges and implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.</p> <p>The refreshed strategy is online here: <a href="#">Bristol: Global City - international strategy</a> and in Appendix A</p>		
<p><b>Evidence Base:</b> A refresh of the strategy objectives and its deliverables was agreed as being needed to take account of the changing external policy and political context (Brexit, Covid recovery, changing global tensions), changes in local policies and plans, as well as being half-way through the 10-year strategy. This review process took place between January and May 2022.</p> <p>The Board agreed that the vision and the strategic outcomes of the International Strategy still stand but that there needs to be fewer, more focused deliverables over the next 1-2 years with task and finish groups. The text in the strategy also needs updating to include more information and to outline the updated context within which this work takes place. This has been overseen by the International Affairs team and the strategy document updated to include new accessibility requirements (e.g., ALT text on images) and to include additional information.</p> <p>Examples of impact the strategy has had to date:</p> <p><b>Outcome 1: Leadership on shared global values and UN Sustainable Development Goals including inclusivity, sustainability, and resilience</b></p> <p>The Council and city’s international activity is supporting delivery of the Council’s climate and ecological emergency programme (reducing carbon emissions and nature recovery). In 2021, Bristol was a driving force in setting up the Cities Commission for Climate Investment which includes the UK Core Cities (including Bristol) and London. It is developing a new model for cities to work with government and the private sector to fund the large scale projects that cities need to meet their carbon emission and nature recovery targets (estimated to be over £200 billion for the UK’s 12 largest cities). Bristol was actively involved in the high level political climate event COP26 in Glasgow attended by national government leaders and business. There, on behalf of Bristol and wider networks of cities, Bristol 1) raised the need for an equitable as well as green transition that benefits all; 2) raised the need for a new finance model for cities, and 3) promoted projects and engaged investors as part of the Cities Commission for Climate Investment.</p>		

**Outcome 2: A stronger, just, green and blue economy and an international gateway to the UK**

By aligning international funding work with council and city priorities, in 2022 the council and partners secured Horizon Europe funding worth ~£280k to Bristol City Council as part of a wider £3.5m project. The project will focus on the [East Bristol Liveable Neighbourhood pilot project](#). It will run for 3 years from January 2023 and focus on engaging historically underrepresented groups in the pilot, and bringing additional data monitoring and capacity-building to the existing programme of work. The partnership for the project has been led by the Austrian Institute for Technology and the Bristol partners are UWE and Knowle West Media Centre. Bristol City Council also successfully bid to join the European Commission’s City Mission programme to support 100 cities achieve climate neutrality by 2030. The City Mission will open up opportunities for funding, capacity building, knowledge exchanges and technical assistance to help the city meet our own targets for climate neutrality.

**Outcome 3: Our international communities and global citizens link Bristol to the world, creating a culturally vibrant, cohesive and welcoming city**

The Bristol International Diaspora Dialogue task and finish group was set up to map and understand the global links of our diaspora citizens, businesses, and communities, and how the city and its organisations can grow these links on trade, investment and tourism, culture, and education. The work helps Bristol celebrate and promote our diverse cultural heritage enabling people to feel valued and part of the city, and has helped shape the story told about Bristol abroad so it reflects the international diaspora in our city. The work has been valuable for the city to better understand the strengths and opportunities created by our international diaspora; to celebrate and promote the diversity of the city including to ensure that festivals and events reflect the make up of Bristol, and continuing to enhance the city’s welcome offer for people arriving in the city through resettlement and migration programmes as well as those arriving for work or study.

**Outcome 4: A rebalancing of sovereignty giving a stronger voice to cities (a global agenda working with national and international partner cities)**

In 2017, the international team were in contact with the Mayors’ offices in Milan and Montreal. These Mayors were collaborating to bring city voices into the UN processes around migration and refugees, to ensure that cities – the places that lose, transition and gain migrants – are heard within the UN decision-making processes and agreements about these topics. This informal discussion went on to become the foundation-funded Mayors Migration Council, and, for the first time, city leader voices were noted within the key documents, the Global Compact on Migration and Global Compact on Refugees. The Mayor of Bristol spoke at the UN as part of the drafting process for these compacts, one of the first times city voices have been heard in this way. When the Compacts were adopted in December 2018, 150 city leaders endorsed the Marrakesh Declaration calling for the full and formal recognition of the role of local authorities in the implementation, follow-up, and review of both Compacts.

**Cabinet Member / Officer Recommendations:**

The Mayor and Cabinet note the updated strategy for information

**Corporate Strategy alignment:** The International Strategy aims to support the delivery of the corporate strategy by using links and relationships with cities and organisations abroad; understanding and sharing experiences from other cities in the world; supporting colleagues to secure funding from international sources, and working with city partners to drive the delivery of the corporate strategy through international outreach.

**City Benefits:** The city’s international work is driven by a strategy that is updated to be more cognisant of the context within which Bristol is situated, in particular it has a stronger focus on inclusivity through work with Bristol’s international diaspora.

**Consultation Details:** Consultation (phone or in person discussions and written exchanges) took place with all members of the International Strategy Board between January and May 2022

**Background Documents:** Refreshed strategy: [Bristol: Global City](#)

<b>Revenue Cost</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>Source of Revenue Funding</b>	
<b>Capital Cost</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>Source of Capital Funding</b>	
<b>One off cost</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Ongoing cost</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Saving Proposal</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Income generation proposal</b> <input type="checkbox"/>

**Required information to be completed by Financial/Legal/ICT/ HR partners:**

**1. Finance Advice:** This report provides an update to Bristol’s International Strategy. No consequent expenditure is expected to arise from its objectives and deliverables

**Finance Business Partner:** Jemma Prince (Finance Business Partner), 5<sup>th</sup> July 2022

<b>2. Legal Advice:</b> There are no legal implications arising from this report.		
<b>Legal Team Leader:</b> Husinara Jones (Team Leader Legal Services), 4 <sup>th</sup> July 2022		
<b>3. Implications on IT:</b> I can see no implications on IT in regards to this activity.		
<b>IT Team Leader:</b> Gavin Arbuckle (Head of Service Improvement and Performance), 6 <sup>th</sup> July 2022		
<b>4. HR Advice:</b> There are no direct HR implications of this report's recommendation		
<b>HR Partner:</b> James Brereton (Head of Human Resources), 3 <sup>rd</sup> July 2022		
<b>EDM Sign-off</b>	Mike Jackson	6 <sup>th</sup> July 2022
<b>Cabinet Member sign-off</b>	Mayor's Office	15 <sup>th</sup> August 2022
<b>For Key Decisions - Mayor's Office sign-off</b>	Mayor's Office	8 <sup>th</sup> August 2022

<b>Appendix A – Further essential background / detail on the proposal</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>Appendix B – Details of consultation carried out - internal and external</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix C – Summary of any engagement with scrutiny</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix D – Risk assessment</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix E – Equalities screening / impact assessment of proposal</b>	<b>YES</b>
Appendix F – <a href="#">Eco-impact screening/ impact assessment of proposal</a>	<b>YES</b>
<b>Appendix G – Financial Advice</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix H – Legal Advice</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix I – Exempt Information</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix J – HR advice</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix K – ICT</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix L – Procurement</b>	<b>NO</b>