



Coventry City Council

**Public report**

## **REPORT BACK ON CONFERENCE/SEMINAR**

**REPORT TO:** Communities and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board (4)

**REPORT OF:** Conference visit to Antwerp

**TITLE:** The Role of Cities in the Integration of Refugees and Migrants

**DATE:** 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> June 2019

**VENUE:** KAVA, Antwerp, Belgium

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1. **Recommendation:** The Communities and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board (4) is recommended to note the contents of the report and welcome and support the fact that the learning from the Antwerp visit will be used to influence the future direction of the MiFriendly Cities Project.
2. **Background:** The conference was attended by the Programme Manager for Migration and the Programme officer from the MiFriendly Cities Project. The City Council is the Main Urban Authority for this EU-funded Project, co-ordinating the delivery of an innovative programme of initiatives facilitating and appreciating the contribution of refugees and migrants. As a part of the Council's role is to facilitate knowledge transfer, the Council is expected to share its learning and to learn from other countries and projects supporting the integration of refugees and migrants. We are funded to visit at least 3 other countries to undertake this knowledge transfer, as well as hosting events in the City. This visit was the first one with further visits planned for next year to meet our commitments to learn from and share our experiences with other cities.

The visit to the City of Antwerp was attended to enable them to share their experience and learning to allow us to learn about wider initiatives and the specific progress and lessons learnt from a number of other EU funded projects (particularly Vienna, Utrecht and Bologna). More information about these projects can be found on UIA's website <https://uia-initiative.eu/en/uia-cities>.

The main focus of the event was the CURANT project in Antwerp with an interactive site visit included. Additionally, the programme included opportunities for participating cities to share their experience and understand the success of various projects focused around integrating refugees and migrants into urban communities.

### 3. Cost of attending

	Costs Approved by Cabinet/Cabinet Member	Total of Actual Costs
Conference Fees	0	
Flights	300	500
Additional Travel Expenses		50
Accommodation	500	230
Subsistence		33
<b>Totals</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>813</b>

### 4. Benefits

The conference was a very good opportunity to network with other cities and projects. The visit allowed us to:

- 1) Network with over 30 organisations from across the EU.
- 2) Get an invitation to attend Euro Cities to be able to consider future participation.
- 3) Learn about initiatives in other cities with the possibility of using some of these for future funding bids.
- 4) Raising the profile of the city by inviting these cities to the Interim Event for the MiFriendly Cities Project, delivered in partnership with this year's Rising Global Forum.

List of background papers.

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Other contributors:

Papers open to public inspection: Yes

Description of paper: Report Back on Conference/Seminar

Location: CH60

**Approved by Cabinet/Cabinet Member on: Cabinet 11<sup>th</sup> June, Cllr T Khan and Cllr G Duggins**