

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE
TWINNING SUB-COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE LARGE COMMITTEE ROOM
CIVIC HEADQUARTERS
WEDNESDAY 9TH MAY 2018 AT 7.00 PM**

- Chair** : Councillor Knight-McQuillan
- Present** : Councillor Baird (Mayor) and Councillor McCorkell
- Officers Present** : P Donaghy, Democratic & Central Services Manager

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies were recorded for Councillors Nicholl and Quigley.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

**3 PRESENTATION OF DRAFT REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF LEGACY
TWINNING ARRANGEMENTS AND OPTIONS FOR FUTURE
ARRANGEMENTS**

The Chair opened the meeting and the draft report was circulated for Members' consideration and comments. The draft report is attached at Appendix A.

Members considered the content of the draft report and following discussion the following recommendations were made:

That Council endorses the content of the draft report.

That Option 3 in relation to funding is agreed; specifically that Council continues to provide funding to the 4 legacy Twinning Associations with the funding to be administered through Council's Funding Unit on a project by project basis, in accordance with set criteria as outlined in the draft report. A maximum grant to any one Twinning Association in a financial year up to £5,000 and where possible, the Council will seek to secure external funding to support the twinning programme, either

directly, or by assisting local organisations to apply for funding as part of their project, in liaison with the Council's external funding officer.

That Council considers an annual Twinning budget of £20,000, an increase of £5,300 on current provision.

With regard to future options for twinning Members noted that the Terms of Reference for the Twinning Sub-Committee provided for the Sub-Committee to explore future twinning arrangements.

Members suggested that there would be value in exploring potential new twinning relationships with the United States. Members noted that Council's 1718 Working Group had raised this as a potential area for development.

There being no further business, the Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting closed at 7.50 pm.

Review of Legacy Twinning Arrangements in the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough and options for future arrangements

1.0 Introduction

Following the establishment of the new Council in 2015 Council agreed to transfer legacy Council twinning arrangements and contributions in 2016/17 and subsequently in 2017/18.

Council also set up a Twinning Sub-Committee consisting of 5 Elected Members nominated by d'Hondt to progress a review of legacy twinning arrangements.

2.0 Aims of the Review

The Sub-Committee's aim was to make recommendation to the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee on:

- The options for Council on how it might administer twinning given the size and profile of the new Council;
- Where twinning could be delivered within Council to best develop twinning arrangements which promote the objectives and identity of the new Council;
- Whether the continuation of the existing legacy twinning links should be supported by Council in the future;
- Future financial contribution for twinning activities;
- Consider future potential opportunities for twinning.

The Sub-Committee reviewed the existing arrangements and as part of the review consulted and met with the 4 Twinning Associations and invited their comments about current twinning activity and ideas for future arrangements.

The notes of these meetings were presented to the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee and are attached as an appendix to this report.

3.0 Consultation findings

- There is a desire to retain the existing financial support for the activities of the Twinning Associations and to explore other funding opportunities.
- The allocation of the budget between the 4 Twinning Associations should be reconsidered for the 2018/19 financial year and future years.
- There is a need for more focused support and co-ordination from Council officers in twinning activities.

APPENDIX A

- Clear direction for twinning activities would be helped by having a lead officer or Elected Member for twinning. This would help monitor delivery, publicise and expand current activity.
- There is a need to keep the twinning activities relevant to Council's strategic priorities and to encourage input and ownership by the community.
- That the limited awareness of twinning arrangements and activities could be addressed with more use of Council's website and regular articles in Council's newsletter. Links with schools and other organisations should also be developed. The Sub-Committee heard evidence that when groups are aware they made use of the connections and benefitted from them.
- That the Mayor's Office is involved in providing civic support in twinning activities.

Options for consideration

Funding

- Option 1

The 4 legacy Twinning Associations continue to receive the current level of Council funding by way of a grant to each Twinning Association.

- Option 2

Where possible the Council could seek to secure external funding for the activities of the Twinning Associations' programmes either directly or by assisting organisations to apply for funding in liaison with Council's Funding Unit.

- Option 3

A grant is made and other sources of funding are also explored with assistance from Council's Funding Unit.

In any case approval should be based on agreed criteria as Twinning activity supported financially by Council should make effective use of public money and demonstrate clear public benefit.

Twinning Associations will be expected to match fund through their fundraising activities.

For example:

*Will the activity contribute to the Council's corporate objectives?
Will the activity promote projects in the following areas e.g. civic pride, tourism development, sports, arts, culture, economic development.
How will the activity bring residents from Causeway Coast and Glens Borough and the twinned authorities closer together?
Is the event likely to result in further exchanges?*

Responsibility for Twinning Activity

- The past and present work of the 4 Twinning Associations is acknowledged for the contribution those involved have made to the Borough. Key to the success of twinning arrangements is the continued work of these groups in developing projects and programmes of events.
- Council's Twinning Sub-Committee would have a role in overseeing and monitoring the output of twinning activities and report this to the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee.
- Specific Council services are involved where the projects relate to that service. Key Council services involved could include Arts, Culture, Sports and Leisure, Events, Tourism and Economic Development.
- The Mayor's Office can be involved in official visits where an invitation is received or extended. Costs for such events could be funded through the Mayor's allowance at the Mayor's discretion.