

TOWN TWINNING

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Council policy on town twinning was last reviewed in 2008, at which time it was resolved that the policy in relation to formal links remain unaltered. They also resolved that if an Area Committee wished to establish any additional informal twinning link, they should do so without any staff or financial resource from the council. Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee noted this recommendation in April 2008, and have since had discussions about existing and potential new twinning links, most recently in October 2015. A new approach has recently been made requesting a new link be formed between Oban and the City of Anacortes, Washington, USA.

Members are asked to note the information provided and agree a response in respect of this new twinning request.

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2.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 Members are asked to note the information provided and agree a response in relation to a potential new twinning link for Oban with Anacortes, Washington, USA.

3.0 DETAIL

- 3.1 The Council policy on town twinning was last reviewed by the Economy Policy and Performance Group, at the request of the Executive, in March 2008. At that time the PPG resolved that the policy in relation to formal links remain unaltered. They also resolved that if an Area Committee wished to establish any additional informal twinning link, they should do so without any staff or financial resource from the Council. Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee noted this recommendation in April 2008, and have since had discussions about existing and potential new twinning links, most recently in October 2015.
- 3.2 The formal links which are in place for Oban Lorn and the Isles are with Gorey, and also with Laurinburg in the United States, though the Laurinburg link is principally between Oban High School and the education authority in America.
- 3.3 The Council currently has a small revenue account for twinning activities which consists of approximately £5000. The agreed practice has been that £2500 is retained centrally and accessed to support the most active twinning link between Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Committee and Amberg Sulzbach and that the remaining £2500 be divided equally

between the other 3 Area Committees.

3.4 Members will recall that a number of approaches have been made to the Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee to enter into new twinning links including approaches from different places in France and from South Africa. Additionally, there have been discussions about rejuvenation of the existing link with Gorey.

3.5 A letter was recently received from Laurie McPhee Gere, Mayor of the City of Anacortes, Washington State, USA introducing Dr Michael James and Rita James who recently visited Oban and delivered the letter personally, asking for consideration of establishing a friendship and city relationship between Oban and Anacortes, to share lives, culture and establish long term friendships. The letter is attached at Appendix 1.

3.6 Members are asked to consider the detail of the approach which has been made by the mayor and agree a suitable response in light of the Councils agreed policy position on twinning links.

4.0 CONCLUSION

4.1 Members are invited to note the information and to agree a suitable response in respect of the invitation to forge a new twinning link with the City of Anacortes, Washington, USA.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

Policy:	The Council has an agreed policy in respect of existing and potential twinning links
Financial:	There is no budget provision for new twinning links
Legal:	None
HR:	None
Equalities:	None
Risk:	None
Customer Service:	None

Executive Director of Customer Services
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