

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE
TWINNING SUB-COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE BANNVIEW COMMITTEE ROOM, CIVIC HEADQUARTERS
AND BY MS TEAMS
WEDNESDAY 22ND MARCH 2022 AT 6.00 PM**

- Chair** : Alderman Baird
- Present** : Aldermen S McKillop, Knight McQuillan
Councillors Dallat O'Driscoll
- Officers Present** : Director of Corporate Services
Democratic & Central Services Manager

1 APOLOGIES

None.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None recorded.

3 NOMINATION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

The Director of Corporate Services chaired the meeting for the duration of the item.

Proposed by Councillor Dallat O'Driscoll
Seconded by Alderman McKillop and **AGREED:**

That Alderman Baird be nominated as Chair.

Proposed by Alderman McKillop
Seconded by Councillor Dallat O'Driscoll and **AGREED:**

That Alderman Knight McQuillan be nominated as Vice Chair.

*Alderman Baird assumed the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

4 REVIEW TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Democratic and Central Services Manager presented the Terms of Reference, circulated, previously agreed by Council in 2017 for the Twinning Sub-Committee.

Members noted that in 2017 Council agreed *“to establish a Twinning Sub-Committee consisting of one Elected Member from each party represented on Corporate Policy and Resources Committee...”*

Following discussion Members suggested that the following sections from the Terms of Reference be considered by the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee

ToR 3.3: ‘The Sub-Committee is comprised of 5 Elected Members from the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee nominated by d’Hondt.’

Members noted that given the passage of time it would be timely to consider the title ‘Sub-Committee’ as it appeared to have been the intention of Council to create a Working Group, which is not subject to the same governance arrangements as a Committee or Sub-Committee. Members also felt that being able to nominate Members who did not sit on Corporate Policy and Resources would provide a larger pool of Members to nominate.

Members agreed that consideration be given to amending the Terms of Reference at 3.3 as follows:

The Twinning Working Group is comprised of 5 Elected Members nominated by d’Hondt.

6 REVIEW 22ND FEBRUARY 2022 CORPORATE POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE REPORT – TWINNING ARRANGEMENTS AND CORPORATE POLICY & RESOURCES MINUTES, MEETING HELD 22ND FEBRUARY 2022

The Democratic and Central Services Manager referred to the papers previously circulated to Members and reminded Members of Council’s decision dated 1st March 2022, *to ‘Continue “as is” in line with Council decision of 22nd May 2018 i.e. assist Twinning Associations through the Grant Funding Process. Arrange a meeting of the Twinning Sub-*

Committee and invite representatives from each Twinning Association to submit plans (if any going forward) gauge current position and level of engagement going forward. Following this meeting, report to CPR with further options for the operation of Twinning arrangements for consideration and note the correspondence received from Coleraine Twinning Association. The correspondence from Coleraine Twinning Association advised that the Twinning Association had ceased its activities.

Members discussed Council's decision and how best to take it forward particularly in relation to engagement with the existing Twinning Associations. Following discussion Members agreed that while they were keen to engage with the Twinning Associations, they wanted to first look at models of delivery for twinning and develop a policy. Members noted the excellent work done by the Twinning Associations. Members agreed that by having a better understanding of what Council wants to achieve in terms of twinning, Council would need to show leadership and define its twinning model and objectives. Members agreed that by developing the policy first and then consulting and engaging with Twinning Associations the engagement would be more meaningful and would define the Council's role, resources and level of support which could realistically be offered and delivered.

The Democratic and Central Services Manager undertook to review the legacy arrangements particularly in terms of support provided including administrative, hospitality and other forms of support and how the twinning budget was administered. She also undertook to research the methods of support and/or policy for twinning in other NI Council areas.

7 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Members were advised that the next meeting would be held in June on a date to be confirmed and circulated to Members.

There being no further business, the Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting closed at 6.45 pm.

