



To: Finance, Resources & Customer Services Policy Board

On: 2 September 2020

Report by: Director of Finance & Resources

Heading: Town Twinning – Renfrew County, Ontario, Canada

1. Summary

- 1.1 The report seeks the Board's approval to the Council responding positively to the approach from Renfrew County, Ontario, Canada to enter into a formal town twinning arrangement.
- 1.2 At the meeting of the Board held on 13 November 2019 it was agreed that officers commence discussions with representatives of Renfrew County, Ontario, Canada in response to a proposal to enter into a town twinning arrangement and that the Director of Finance and Resources be authorised to negotiate the necessary town twinning agreement on behalf of the Council, in consultation with the Provost; and that a further report would be submitted to the Board on the outcome of those discussions and to consider the terms of the town twinning agreement.
- 1.3 The recent coronavirus pandemic has had significant impact on travel together with any provision of civic hospitality, in light of this, it should be noted that the hospitality requested below may be subject to postponement.
-

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Board:

- a) following dialogue between officers on behalf of the Council and representatives from Renfrew County, Ontario, Canada approves the terms of the town twinning agreement and terms of reference (appendix 1)
 - b) that officers on behalf of the Council and representatives from Renfrew County collaborate to mark a virtual twinning between the respective Counties in lieu of an official visit.
 - c) that the Director of Finance & Resources in consultation with the Provost be authorised to make the necessary arrangements to provide hospitality for the official visit on a date still to be arranged; and
 - d) the cost of the arrangements will be met from within the 2020/21 budget provision for International Links.
-

3. Background

- 3.1 The Council currently has two town twinning arrangements; with Gladsaxe in Denmark and Furth in Germany.
- 3.2 The approach from Renfrew County arises initially due to their County being named after Renfrew by Scottish immigrants and builds on the Council's participation in Renfrew County's 150th anniversary celebrations in 2011.
- 3.3 Renfrew County is located West of Canada's Capital City, Ottawa along the border with the province of Quebec to the east and Algonquin Park to the west/north west. It includes 17 municipalities which are part of the County Council and a separated city located in the central area of the County, the City of Pembroke. The County has a population of approximately 102,000 and covers an area of approximately 102 square kilometres (2,873 square miles).
- 3.4 The anticipated benefits to the Council from town twinning arrangements are:
 - Creating relationships between our businesses, schools and colleges and our cultural assets
 - Promoting economic development through trade missions; and
 - Supporting cultural and tourism links.
- 3.5 It should be emphasised at this stage that the arrangement will not involve visits to Canada by elected members or senior officers.

Instead, the relationship will be maintained through links between local businesses, schools and other organisations.

Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** – There will be no additional costs to the Council arising directly from establishing the town twinning arrangement. The cost of any civic events will be paid for using existing resources.
2. **HR & Organisational Development** - None
3. **Community/Council Planning** –
Reshaping our place, our economy and our future – The proposal will support closer economic and cultural links to the benefit of the local economy.
4. **Legal** – A formal town twinning agreement will be entered into.
5. **Property/Assets** - none.
6. **Information Technology** – none
7. **Equality & Human Rights**

(a) The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.
8. **Health & Safety** - none
9. **Procurement** - none
10. **Risk** – none
11. **Privacy Impact** - none.
12. **Climate Risk** – none
13. **Cosla Policy Position** – n/a

List of Background Papers - none

The foregoing background papers will be retained within Finance & Resources for inspection by the public for the prescribed period of four years from the date of the meeting. The contact officer within the service is Donna Gallagher, Member Services Officer (Telephone – 0141 618 6794, e-mail – donna.gallagher-pt@renfrewshire.gov.uk)

Author: Donna Gallagher – Member Services Officer. Tel: 0141 618 6794 E-mail donna.gallagher-pt@renfrewshire.gov.uk

APPENDIX 1

PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT Between THE COUNTY OF RENFREW And RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL

Whereas, the municipalities of Renfrewshire Council, Scotland and the County of Renfrew, Ontario, Canada share similar goals of international cooperation, mutual prosperity, and world peace; and

Whereas, they believe it to be in their collective interest to broaden and strengthen ties between the two municipalities; and

Whereas, they place similar values on cultural understanding, education, training, youth leadership, exchanges to educate citizens, environmental stewardship, etc.; and

Whereas, they will identify activities, common to all, that can generate new initiatives to further nurture economic, social, and cultural relationships; and

Whereas, the purpose of this relationship is to increase economic development, tourism, business to business relationships and opportunities, cultural exchanges, educational opportunities, technical exchanges, etc. for both regions, and to increase awareness of both municipalities as being leaders in their respective countries as a place to do business and visit; and

Whereas, both municipalities are committed to mutual support for organizing and developing the experiences, common activities, and future programs of the twinning relationship on the basis of previous agreements of mutual cooperation and directions set forth by this declaration;

Now, Therefore, We, Renfrewshire Council and the County of Renfrew, do believe that this pact will further contribute to the cause of world peace and to the development of friendly relations between the peoples of Scotland and Canada and our two municipalities; and

Further, we affix our signatures and our city seals on this declaration to establish our relationship as Partner Authorities.

[SIGNATURE]
[TITLE]
[DATE]

[SIGNATURE]
[TITLE]
[DATE]

PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

Between

THE COUNTY OF RENFREW

And

RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL

Terms of Reference

The Renfrewshire Council and the County of Renfrew hope to build on preexisting relationships built between their respective communities, and acknowledge that these previous exchanges and personal friendships along with the benefits they have brought to each community have served as a foundation for this agreement. Both parties believe it to be in their collective interest to broaden and strengthen ties between the two communities, and place similar values on cultural understanding, education, training, youth leadership, exchanges to educate citizens, environmental stewardship, etc. The parties also acknowledge the strong ancestral roots as a motivator in deepening the ties between these two communities.

Recognizing the importance of strong and diverse economies, the parties will encourage their respective chambers of commerce and business communities to foster exchanges of entrepreneurs and business enterprises in areas such as tourism and commerce.

The Renfrewshire Council and the County of Renfrew, do hereby agree to promote, support, and encourage exchanges and cooperative activities between the citizens of each community.

These exchanges and activities shall be based on shared goals of economic development, cultural understanding, and improved municipal governance and administration.

In pursuit of these shared goals, our cities shall:

- Encourage business-to-business relationships, opportunities, and investments
- Explore cooperation and exchange between local development agencies, chambers of commerce, and tourism departments;
- Encourage study abroad programs between our respective post-secondary institutions;
- Perform inbound/outbound high school exchanges
- Explore exchanges of art and cultural products between our respective museums and galleries
- Prioritize municipal exchanges in the areas of key economic development industry pillars

In all activities each side will endeavor to ensure mutual benefit for each municipality, and shall draw on its institutions, social organizations, and citizens to promote cooperation. All activities shall also be subject to availability of resources and yearly budgets, and each party understands that this agreement does not constitute a financial commitment on behalf of the municipalities.

We hereby pledge to cooperate with each other on this [DATE].

[SIGNATURE]
[TITLE]
[DATE]

[SIGNATURE]
[TITLE]
[DATE]