



Twinning Midlothian

Report by Saty Kaur, Chief Officer Corporate Solutions

Report for Decision

1 Recommendations

Council is recommended to:

- Nominate an Elected Member to be the Council's representative on the Penicuik Twinning Association
- Nominate an Elected Member to be the Council's representative on the Dalkeith Twinning Association
- Instruct the Executive Director Place to progress options for further Twinning of Midlothian's towns

2 Purpose of Report/Executive Summary

To provide Council with information on the value of Twinning and to receive Elected Member nominations to represent the Council on the Penicuik and Dalkeith Twinning Associations.

Date Monday 18 November 2024

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3 Background

- 3.1** Twinning links are legal or social agreements between two cities, towns or villages, to boost trade and tourism, promote peace and cultural exchange.
- 3.2** The aim of twinning is to encourage the coalition of towns, cities, districts or regions. There is a growing trend for cities to join transnational networks with the aim of exchanging experience and learning from best practice
- 3.3** A town twinning link is a friendship agreement involving co-operation between two communities in different countries, endorsed by both local authorities. The twinned communities organise projects and activities around a range of issues.

Main Report

- 3.4** Midlothian as a county is twinned with Heinsberg, Germany and Komárom-Esztergom, Hungary.
- 3.5** In addition some of its towns have twinning links:

Midlothian Town	Twinning link
Bonnyrigg and Lasswade	Saint-Cyr-l'École, France
Dalkeith	Jarnac, France
Danderhall	Angres, France
Penicuik	L'Isle-sur-la-Sorgue, France

Twinning Associations

- 3.6** The Council has 4 places on the Midlothian Twinning Association and these are occupied by Provost McCall, Depute Provost Bowen, Councillor Russell and Councillor Smail.
- 3.7** There are active Twinning Associations in two Midlothian towns – Dalkeith and Penicuik. The Council is not currently represented on either of these Twinning Associations. Given the value of twinning in Midlothian, Council is asked to nominate an Elected Member representative for each of those, noting that it will be for the individual Twinning Associations to accept these nominations.

Further Twinning opportunities

- 3.8** Further to the established Twinning links that Midlothian and its towns have, as Midlothian continues to grow, it is deemed important to consider further Twinning opportunities with different countries. Council is asked to instruct the Executive Director Place to progress options for further Twinning of Midlothian's towns to promote trade, tourism and culture for Midlothian.

4 Report Implications (Resource, Digital and Risk)

4.1 Resource

No implications

4.2 Digital

No implications

4.3 Risk

No implications

4.4 Ensuring Equalities (if required a separate IIA must be completed)

No implications

4.5 Additional Report Implications (See Appendix A)

See Appendix A

Appendices

Appendix A – Additional Report Implications

APPENDIX A – Report Implications

A.1 Key Priorities within the Single Midlothian Plan

N/A

A.2 Key Drivers for Change

Key drivers addressed in this report:

- Holistic Working
- Hub and Spoke
- Modern
- Sustainable
- Transformational
- Preventative
- Asset-based
- Continuous Improvement
- One size fits one
- None of the above

A.3 Key Delivery Streams

Key delivery streams addressed in this report:

- One Council Working with you, for you
- Preventative and Sustainable
- Efficient and Modern
- Innovative and Ambitious
- None of the above

A.4 Delivering Best Value

N/A

A.5 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

N/A

A.6 Impact on Performance and Outcomes

N/A

A.7 Adopting a Preventative Approach

N/A

A.8 Supporting Sustainable Development

N/A