

Title of Report:	Twinning Arrangements Review
Committee Report Submitted To:	Corporate Policy and Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	22 February 2022
For Decision or For Information	For Decision

Linkage to Council Strategy (2019-23)	
Strategic Theme	Leader and Champion
Outcome	Establish key relationships with strategic partners to deliver our vision for this Council area
Lead Officer	Director of Corporate Services/Leisure & Development (Grant Funding)

Budgetary Considerations			
Cost of Proposal	Maximum £20k		
Included in Current Year Estimates	YES/NO £10K		
Capital/Revenue	Revenue		
Code	50201		
Staffing Costs			
Screening Requirements	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	EQIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	Yes/No	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 CCGBC established a Twinning Sub-Committee (CPR), which met on 15th August 2017, 23rd November 2017 and 9th May 2018.
- 1.2 Representations were received from each of the legacy committees during this time.
- 1.3 Council agreed (22nd May 2018) that the budget be increased to £20k, with each of the 4 Twinning Groups being granted up to £5K per year, **following an assessment process** and that each of the groups present to the Sub-Committee on work being carried out.

“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”.

- 1.4 Subsequently during estimates process (2019/20) the funding total for twinning grants was reduced to £10,000, based on actual payments.

2.0 Payments Made Since 2015

The table below provides details of payments made to each Twinning Association since 2015. No payments were awarded since year-end 2020 as a result of COVID.

Year	Date	Coleraine Amount	Limavady Amount	Ballymoney Amount	Moyle Amount
15/16	19/05/2015	£5,000	£2,700	£5,000	£2,000
16/17	15/03/2016	£5,000	£2,700	£5,000	£2,000
17/18	14/04/2017	£5,000	£2,700	£5,000	£2,000
18/19	07/11/2018	£5,000	£5,000	£5,000	£5,000
19/20		£0	£0	£0	£0
20/21		£0	£0	£0	£0
21/22		£0	£0	£0	£0

Following the Council decision on 22nd May 2018, Twinning Association funding was administered through the Council's grant funding programme. The grant programme was put in place for 2019/2020.

3.0 Recent correspondence and current position

3.1 Correspondence was received from the Coleraine Twinning Association (CTA) (Appendix 1)

3.2 Coleraine Twinning Association did not apply for a grant in 2020/21 or 2021/22. In February 2019 the application was rejected, due to lack of detail.

Grant Funding Unit reopened the grant and Coleraine Twinning Association re-applied in May 2019 –they scored 40% which below the 65% threshold.

Grant Funding Unit re-opened the programme a third time, met with CTA to help with the application but they refused to submit an application.

3.3 In order to accommodate the Twinning Associations Grant Funding Unit keep this grant programme open all year round.

4.0 Options for consideration

4.1 Continue "as is" in line with Council decision of 22nd May 2018 ie 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.

5.0 Recommendation

It is recommended that the Corporate Policy & Resources Committee approve the option 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

Notes the correspondence received from Coleraine Twinning Association.

Councillor Richard Holmes

25th November 2021

Dear Mr. Mayor

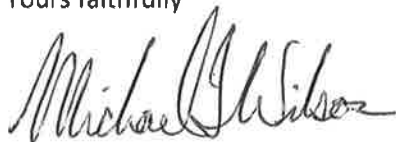
I write to you, as my previous letter of 20th October 2018 outlining the practical problems facing Coleraine Twinning Association, addressed to Mr. Jackson, received neither an acknowledgement nor a response.

This total lack of interest and practical support from Causeway Coast and Glens Council has resulted in the members of Coleraine Twinning Association deciding unanimously at our meeting held on Tuesday 23rd November to revert responsibility for the Coleraine Twinning Charter, signed by Coleraine Borough Council, to our present Council. For the avoidance of doubt, the Coleraine Twinning Association has now ceased its activities.

The Coleraine Twinning Association members also asked that you would read this letter at the next full Council meeting, as it will result in Causeway Coast and Glens Council having to inform the Council of La Roche –sur-Yon of its decision to withdraw from the Charter.

This will need to be done promptly, as we are aware that our French colleagues are busy planning activities for exchanges for 2022. We trust that in this action, our Council will act with fairness and decency.

Yours faithfully



Michael I. Wilson
Chairman
Coleraine Twinning Association