



NORWICH City Council

Committee Name: Twinning

Committee Date: 23/03/2023

Report Title: Twinning fund –Update

Portfolio: Councillor Kendrick, cabinet member for resources

Report from: Democratic and elections manager

Wards: All wards

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Purpose

To provide an update to the twinning committee

Recommendation:

- 1) To note the report from the Democratic and elections manager

Policy Framework

The Council has five corporate priorities, which are:

- People live independently and well in a diverse and safe city.
- Norwich is a sustainable and healthy city.
- Norwich has the infrastructure and housing it needs to be a successful city.
- The city has an inclusive economy in which residents have equal opportunity to flourish.
- Norwich City Council is in good shape to serve the city.

This report helps to meet the corporate priorities of Norwich City Council is in good shape to serve the city and people live independently and well in a diverse and safe city.

Report

1. The balance of the Twinning Fund in March 2023 is £3449.97
2. The Twinning Fund has been allocated an additional **£2060** for the current financial year which is included in the above total.
3. The following grants have been awarded since the last meeting in October 2022
 - a) £200 grant to Norfolk and Norwich Rouen Association (NNRA)
 - b) £200 grant to Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association (NNNSA)
 - c) £200 grant to Norfolk and Norwich Koblenz Friendship Association (NNKFA)
 - d) £250 grant to NNNSA to support the Paul Cross Memorial Concert
 - e) £400 grant to the Garage Trust supporting an exchange visit with Rouen.
4. The above grants have been approved by the Interim Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer)
5. These grants concern the 2022-23 financial year so the twinning committee will need to consider how grant funding to the associations is taken forward to the next financial year 2023-24. The committee would need to recommend any future grants to the Interim Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer) for approval.
6. There have been no further grant applications from twinning associations for specific events in the current financial year.
7. The twinning associations are encouraged to submit applications to the committee for consideration for any events planned.
8. Members of the committee are reminded that applications for grants for twinning related activities can be made by completing a form and contacting the democratic and elections manager.
9. At the last meeting in October, the twinning committee recommended using the twinning fund to purchase new twinning boards to be displayed in the civic corridor at City Hall. The cost for 5 new boards was estimated at £150.00. Discussions are ongoing with the associations about new wording for the boards.
10. The democratic and elections manager can confirm that regretfully the El Viejo Friendship Link was formally dissolved on the 21 October 2022. This has been confirmed in writing and the council's website has been updated.
11. Work is ongoing around establishing a friendship link between Norwich and Ari-Uru-Eu-Wau Wau indigenous people based in Rondônia, Brazil.

The democratic and elections manager suggests that those involved in setting up the link are invited to a future twinning meeting to learn about how established links work and operate.

Consultation

12. There has been no consultation on this report.

Implications

Financial and Resources

Any decision to reduce or increase resources or alternatively increase income must be made within the context of the council's stated priorities, as set out in its Corporate Plan and Budget.

13. The report sets out the financial position of the twinning fund. Any grant applications will be considered within existing budgets.

Legal

14. There are no legal implications within this report.

Statutory Considerations

| Consideration | Details of any implications and proposed measures to address: |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Equality and Diversity | None |
| Health, Social and Economic Impact | None |
| Crime and Disorder | None |
| Children and Adults Safeguarding | None |
| Environmental Impact | None |

Reasons for the decision/recommendation

15. The twinning committee is invited to note the financial position to enable grant applications to be considered throughout the year.

Background papers: None

Appendices: None

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