

Swindon Borough Council

Town Twinning Network

Tuesday, 22 March 2005

Committee Room 1, Civic Offices, Swindon (Anticipated meeting room)

At 6.00 p.m.

**Conservative
Councillors**

Doreen Dart
Michael Dickinson
Chris Van Roon

**Labour
Councillors**

Philip Steele
Derique Montaut

**Liberal Democrat
Councillors**

Stan Pajak

Karen Mayell, Swindon Ocotal Link
Philip Young, Swindon Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Mr Reg Clarke, Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association
Mr Bruce Clarke, Swindon Ocotal Link
Mr Phil Eagle, La Garenne Link
Mr D Ainscough, Lydiards - Tessy sur Vire Twinning Association
Peter Mallinson, Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association
Mike Ide, Wroughton - St Germain les Corbeil Twinning Association
Mr D Worsnip, Highworth - Pontorson Twinning Association
Daryl Jones, Senior Economic Development Officer

Committee Officer: Alison Smith (Telephone 01793 463612)

Email: alsmith@swindon.gov.uk

Swindon Borough Council, Civic Offices, Euclid Street, Swindon, SN1 2JH (Telephone 01793 463000)

AGENDA

PART 1 (PUBLIC ITEMS)

1. Apologies for Absence

2. Exempt Items - Exclusion of Press and Public

*Certain items are expected to include the consideration of exempt information and the **Network** is, therefore, recommended to resolve "That, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded during the discussion of the matters referred to in the items listed below, on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information, as defined in the respective paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act".*

<u>Item No.</u>	<u>Paragraph No.</u>
7	5 & 7

3. Minutes (Pages 1 - 4)

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 18th January 2005.

4. Public Question Time

See explanatory note below. Please phone the Committee Officer whose name and number appears at the top of this agenda if you need further guidance.

5. Update on Swindon Borough Council Twinning Projects (Pages 5 - 16)

6. Reports from the Town Twinning Associations and Links (Pages 17 - 18)

PART 2 (TO BE CONSIDERED WITHOUT THE PRESS AND PUBLIC PRESENT)

7. Application for Town Twinning Grant (Pages 19 - 28)

Date of Despatch: 14 March 2005

Public Question Time - *Swindon Borough Council is committed to increasing its accountability to the public and to promoting active citizenship. Up to 15 minutes will be allowed at the start of all Council meetings for questions to the Chair from members of the public about the work of the Committee (except for confidential matters and specific planning applications). Questions must be relevant, clear and concise. Because of time constraints Public Question Time is not an opportunity to make speeches or statements. Prior notice of a question to the Director of Law and Corporate Governance is desirable - particularly if detailed background information is needed.*

Access Arrangements – *The Venue is wheelchair accessible and an infrared receiver hearing system is provided. If you would wish to attend the meeting but have any special requirement to enable you to do so please contact the Committee Clerk above, as soon as possible prior to the date of the meeting.*

If you would like to receive any of the pages contained in this agenda in a larger print size please contact the Committee Officer whose name appears on the first page of this agenda.

TOWN TWINNING NETWORK

TUESDAY, 18 JANUARY 2005

PRESENT:- Councillors Derique Montaut (Chair), Doreen Dart, Stan Pajak and Philip Steele; Philip Young (Swindon Chamber of Commerce and Industry), Mr Reg Clarke and Peter Mallinson (Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association), Mr Bruce Clarke (Swindon Ocotal Link), Mr Phil Eagle (La Garenne Link), Daryl Jones (Senior Economic Development Officer), Mike Ide (Wroughton - St Germain les Corbeil Twinning Association) and Mr D Worsnip (Highworth - Pontorson Twinning Association)

Apologies for absence were received from Karen Mayell, Mrs S Whittington and Councillor Michael Dickinson

7. Minutes

Resolved – That, subject to the inclusion of Peter Mallinson in the attendance list, the minutes of the meeting held on 25th November 2004 be confirmed.

8. Public Question Time

No public questions were received during the meeting.

9. Reports from Swindon Town Twinning Associations and Links

Swindon Ocotal Link (SOL)

Bruce Clarke updated the Network on the activities of the Swindon Ocotal Link, which included the following:

- Visit from the Venture Scouts to Ocotal during July 2004.
- Participation in the Twinning Conference in October 2004.
- Hosted a guest from Guatemala who spoke at the Agenda 21 Hospitality conference. Worked together with Agenda 21 and the Fair Trade Coalition on a grant application to promote a coffee project which was unsuccessful.
- Successful visit by Lester Figueroa – SOL expresses its thanks to the New College
- Receipt of a grant of £750 from the Nicaragua Solidarity Campaign for Primary Health Care work in Ocotal.
- \$9,000 donated this year to Ocotal, including donations from SOL members.
- Visit by 7 people who had not visited Ocotal before – each made a donation of \$200 to projects in Ocotal.
- SOL now has a web site – Swindonocotal-link.org
- School twinning is being discussed with Greendown and Hreod Parkway.

Bruce added that as the Head of Ofsted had stated that Citizenship was one of the worst taught subjects in schools, Twinning could be used as a means to get this message across. The Chair suggested that Daryl Jones (Senior Economic Development Officer) contact the Director of Education to find out which schools

were currently involved in Twinning activities.

Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association

Reg Clarke again reported on the success of the recent Swindon International Festival and Conference and circulated a copy of the Swindon Festival 2004 Budget for information.

Swindon Torun Link

Councillor Stan Pajak updated the Network about a trip to Torun by a junior ice hockey team to take place from 17th – 21st March 2005. Places on the coach and at the hotel were still available for anyone wishing to visit Torun for the weekend with accommodation costing about £15 per night for full board.

Wroughton – St Germaine les Corbeil Twinning Association

Mike Ide informed the Network that 30 people had recently visited Wroughton including the Mayor of St Germaine les Corbeil, with accommodation being provided by families. The visit had included a trip to Longleat, a walk around Wroughton, a visit to the Cenotaph followed by a visit to the Mayor's parlour.

Mike also informed the Network that the new E111's were now available and that the old ones had expired on December 31st 2004.

La Garenne Link

Phil Eagle reported that he was still looking at ways of sending the display depicting the Twinning Link by schools in Haydon Wick over to France – any ideas would be welcome.

Highworth-Pontorson Twinning Association

Dr Worsnip informed the Network that local families provide any accommodation for visitors and that a billeting officer keeps a record of these. There will be a visit in May from Pontorson and the theme for the visit will be based around the history of Highworth in relation to the railways, including a weekend of talks and a visit to the Steam Museum. Dr Worsnip stated that he was investigating the possibility of translating information from the Steam Museum and from 4 Country Parks (Coate, Stanton, Barbury and Lydiard) into French. Daryl Jones confirmed that he would be able to assist with this translation.

10. Update on Swindon Borough Council Twinning Projects

The Chair reported that he was keen to review the terms of reference for the Town Twinning Network and that Daryl Jones (Senior Economic Development Officer) would be preparing a draft report to bring to the next meeting of the Network outlining the overall objectives and role of the Town Twinning Network and highlighting those areas where the Council can assist in achieving these objectives, in particular identifying the differences between official/Civic Twinning and Community led Twinning activities. The Chair also suggested that further work could be undertaken with the Chamber of Commerce in developing the economic development side of Town Twinning activities.

The Chair updated the Network on the available budget for Town Twinning grants and stated that the Network needed to think of ways of utilising this money more effectively in the future.

Reg Clarke reported that he had contacted the Leader of the Council and had asked a question at full Council regarding what the Council was intending to do for the 30 year anniversary of the Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association and that he was still awaiting a reply. Issues may be raised during the visit to Salzgitter particularly in regard to Education and Youth Exchanges and it was suggested that it may be useful for Reg to meet with Education Officers in order to discuss this. The Chair also suggested that issues such as training opportunities, apprenticeships and business development should be raised during the Salzgitter visit. Daryl Jones added that three young trainees from Swindon Borough Council would be visiting Salzgitter during April 2005.

Bruce Clarke added that he would welcome a review of the Network and that each Twinning and Link has to take a lead in taking Twinning activities forward.

11. Date of the next meeting

The next meeting of the Town Twinning Network will be held on Tuesday, 22nd March 2005.

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To: The Chair and Members of
the Town Twinning Network

Date: 22nd March 2005

By: Director of Law and Corporate
Governance

Parish/Ward: All

Update on Swindon Borough Council Twinning Projects

1 Purpose

- 1.1 To provide a verbal report updating members of the Town Twinning Network on the activities of Swindon Borough Council in relation to Twinning Projects since the last meeting of 18th January 2005, including a review of the constitution (attached as appendix 1) and to consider a draft report on the overall objectives and role of the Town Twinning Network for discussion (attached as appendix 2)

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That members of the Town Twinning Network note the activities of Swindon Borough Council.

3 Financial and Procurement Implications

- 3.1 There are no direct financial or procurement implications relating to this update. Any future activity that has financial implications would be subject to a separate report.

4 Social, Environmental, Staffing, Legal/Human Rights, Risk and Other Implications

- 4.1 Social Implications – This report has no direct social implications. It is anticipated that any activity will strengthen links between Swindon and its twin towns and widen the horizons of the individuals and groups involved in twinning activities
- 4.2 Environmental Implications – There are no environmental implications arising from this report
- 4.3 Staffing Implications – There are no staffing implications arising from this report
- 4.4 Legal/Human Rights Implications – This report has no specific legal or human rights implications

4.5 All other Risk Implications – None

4.6 Links to Corporate Plan – The Council is committed to developing and promoting a strong local image and “pride of place” for all (objective 4 – an economically prosperous place).

5 Detail

5.1 The Town Twinning Network seeks to promote co-ordination and co-operation in the development of Twinning Links and in the development of other International friendship links between the people of Swindon and communities in other Countries.

5.2 The Town Twinning Network meets five times a year in order to encourage the development of International friendship links and commercial links between the people of Swindon and communities in other Countries by the provision of a forum for discussion and the exchange of information.

5.3 The Senior Economic Development Officer will provide members of the Network with a verbal update of the activities of Swindon Borough Council in relation to Town Twinning activities that have taken place since the last meeting on 18th January 2005.

5.4 At the last meeting of the Network, members requested a review of the constitution and a clarification of the overall objectives and role of the Town Twinning Network. A draft report is attached outlining the possible objectives and role of the Network for discussion at this meeting.

6 Appendices

6.1 Copy of the Town Twinning Network constitution

6.2 Draft report on the overall objectives and role of the Town Twinning Network.

7 Date

7.1 11th March 2005

The Director of Finance and Director of Law and Corporate Governance are consulted on all reports.

Further information regarding this report can be obtained from Alison Smith on Direct Dial No. 463612 or Email alsmith@swindon.gov.uk

The Lead Member for the service area subject to this report is Councillor Mike Bawden, Leader of the Council.

Swindon Borough Council Town Twinning Network

Constitution

1. Mission Statement

The Town Twinning Network seeks to promote co-ordination and co-operation in the development of Twinning Links with the Twin Towns of Swindon (currently Salzgitter and Ocotal) and in the development of other international friendship links between the people of Swindon and communities in other Countries.

2. Objectives

The Town Twinning Network will act as a co-ordinating body for interested groups and individuals seeking to promote twinning links with the Twin Towns of Swindon (currently Salzgitter and Ocotal).

The Town Twinning Network will seek to co-ordinate fund raising and publicity in relation to Town Twinning but will not itself undertake these activities.

The Town Twinning Network will seek to encourage the development of international friendship links and commercial links between the people of Swindon and communities in other Countries by the provision of a forum for discussion and the exchange of information.

The Town Twinning Network will receive and consider applications for Town Twinning Grants, and make recommendations to the Council.

3. Membership

Membership of the Town Twinning Network will comprise:

Two representatives of Salzgitter Adult Group

Two representatives of Swindon Ocotal Link

One representative of Swindon Chamber of Commerce and Industry

One representative of Swindon Youth Council

Six Members of Swindon Borough Council

Such other persons as the Town Twinning Network shall from time to time co-opt to membership, together with the following ex-officio not voting members:

A representative of the Borough Solicitor, Swindon Borough Council

The European and International Officer, Swindon Borough Council

Two representatives of the Director of Education and Community, Swindon Borough Council

4. Meetings and Annual Meeting

The Town Twinning Network will meet at least three times in each calendar year.

The Chair shall be elected at the Annual Meeting and serve for one year regardless of changes in his/her nomination status to the Network (ie the election to the Chair is incontrovertibly personal for one year).

The Vice - Chair shall be elected at the Annual Meeting and serve for one year regardless of changes in his/her nomination status to the Network.

Nominating bodies shall inform the Network of changes in its nominees. Such information shall appear as an item on the agenda of the Network, at which time the Network shall decide if it wishes to take its own action in the light of such information.

The quorum for meetings of the Town Twinning Network shall be five, or such other number as the Network shall from time to time determine.

The Borough Solicitor, Swindon Borough Council, will be Hon. Secretary and will arrange for the despatch of notices of meetings and for the keeping of minutes.

At least three clear days notice of the time and place of an intended meeting of the Town Twinning Network shall be given. Failure to give such notice shall not invalidate the proceedings at any meeting of the Network.

Voting at meetings will be by a show of hands and a simple majority of those members present and voting shall suffice. The Chair shall have a second or casting vote.

The proceedings of the Town Twinning Network shall not be invalidated by any failure to appoint or any defect in the appointment or qualifications of a member.

5. Financial Arrangements

The Town Twinning Network shall not hold funds or enter into any financial transactions.

6. Amendment of Constitution

This constitution can be amended by notice of motion to be proposed at one meeting and voted on at the next by the Town Twinning Network and passed by a two-thirds majority vote of those present and voting.

7. Attendance by the Press and Public

Attendance by the Press and Public at meetings of the Town Twinning Network is welcomed subject to the Network having the discretion to ask those persons to leave when any item marked 'private and confidential' on the agenda or a report is considered.

December, 2003

Draft – SWINDON'S TOWN TWINNING REPORT

11 March 2005

Daryl Jones – European and External Funding Officer

1/ Why do we twin with other towns?

2/ What are the benefits of town twinning?

3/ The Swindon Town Twinning Network – roles and objectives

4/ Swindon's civic and official town twinning

5/ The Community and Town Twinning

6/ How the council can assist town twinning

1/ Why do we twin with other towns?

A twinning Link is customarily defined as a friendship agreement involving co-operation between two communities in different countries, endorsed by both local authorities. The two twinned communities organise projects and activities around a range of issues and develop an understanding of historical, cultural, life style similarities and differences. These activities involve a wide range of community members and often involve direct people to people contact.

The concept of twinning began in Europe as early as the turn of the century, with the first recorded UK link in 1920 between Keighly, West Yorkshire and Poix du Nord in France. The number of twinning links increased significantly after the Second World War to aid the process of peace and reconciliation and in the 1970s and 80s, following the UK's entry into the Economic European Community (EEC).

In recognition of the significant contribution of twinning to European integration, the European Commission established a town twinning grant in 1989 to support exchange activities between European twinned towns.

In the early 1990s, communities started to re-evaluate the content of their twinning relationships and there was a noticeable trend towards the economic and technical aspects of twinning as well as the creation of more multi-lateral relationships. There was also another growth in partnerships, but this time with Central and Eastern Europe as UK local government sought to encourage the growth of democracy and a free market economy. Twinning has also responded to recent problems in conflict areas, such as the Balkans, through the development of community links and technical cooperation partnerships.

Currently, there are over 2000 twinning links in the UK, 50% of which are with France and 25% with Germany. The remaining 25% are with communities all over the world, including the USA, China and many countries of the Commonwealth. These are complemented by the increase in informal partnerships and project based activities, many led by community groups, in particular with Africa, the Caribbean and the Indian sub-continent. If you would like to know more about the UK's twinning links, click onto the LGIB Twinning database.

The LGIB is responsible for coordinating twinning activities in England, Wales and Northern Ireland and can provide advice on all aspects of twinning and at all stages. If you are looking for a partner in Europe or beyond, click on finding a partner. If you would like to know more about managing a twinning link, click on running a twinning link.

Through its membership of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR), the LGIB plays an active part in the European Twinning Officers Network, exchanging information with counterpart organisations in Europe, and representing the interests of local authorities and twinning associations in meetings with the Commission.

2/ What are the benefits of town twinning?

There are many reasons why UK local government has taken such a leading role in international partnerships and twinning links, not least because of their direct relevance to local concerns, service delivery and councils' core values. There is also much to be gained by involving as many members of the community as possible in international partnerships. This can allow links to expand into diverse new areas. A link that has its roots in the community may develop into a school partnership or a technical exchange project, for instance.

Exchange visits can provide a unique experience and insight into the lifestyles and environment of another community, with the opportunity for contact with people in a variety of fields.

Listed below are some of the benefits provided by international partnerships and twinning links.

▸ Local authority benefits

Community benefits

▸ General benefits

Local authority benefits

Improving service delivery and problem solving

Comprehensive Performance Assessments look at councils' ability to adapt and improve. Having overseas links demonstrates an ability to learn from the best practice of others.

Best value legislation requires local authorities to provide services that are cost effective, of a good quality and meet the demands of the local community. International partnerships can link directly into this work by giving councils the opportunity to collaborate with counterparts overseas and to share information and experience in a number of service areas.

Exchanges between council officers are a cheap and effective way of delivering technical assistance and can be more sustainable than one off projects. It can allow local authorities to compare approaches to solving particular problems, and let members of staff learn from each other over a period of time.

Increasing global and European awareness

Globalisation means that local authorities are operating in an increasingly international

environment and dealing with European and international businesses on a regular basis. The influence of the European Union is also important, as EU laws impact directly on local government activities. Around 80% of EU environmental legislation affects local authorities, for example. Overseas partnerships and twinning links increase awareness of European and international issues and can boost local councils' understanding of their counterparts in the rest of the world.

Accessing EU funding

European Union funding programmes usually require local authorities to work with partners from other countries. Twinning links provide an excellent source of potential partners, enabling them to unlock funding for technical projects.

Effective staff development and training

Through the challenges associated with resolving technical issues in a new environment, overseas partnerships and twinning links can provide innovative training opportunities for all levels of staff and in a number of subject areas, ranging from management development to practical skills

A better understanding of another culture can help local authority officers to work more effectively within their own community. Overseas partnerships also provide an opportunity for staff to work with different colleagues within their own organisation and community, or with other UK councils and organisations, such as central government departments. This can build good links and networks and can be an effective means of establishing links between commercial organisations, voluntary bodies and the non-governmental sector.

Effective member development and training

Elected members can also benefit from the personal development opportunities available as a result of overseas partnerships. Councillors can use a twinning link to enhance their own skills by exchanging experience with their counterparts.

Community benefits

Promoting tolerance and increasing understanding

Local authority partnerships put people from different countries and cultures together. This can help to increase their understanding of the world and can broaden their horizons. Importantly, it can help promote tolerance and respect for others, thereby combating racism and xenophobia.

Twinning provides an opportunity to bring together all members of a community, regardless of age, ethnic or religious background, gender, disability or social or economic status. It can help people get to know others within their own local community, thereby increasing understanding of other people locally, as well as between two communities in different countries.

Promoting stronger community partnerships

Councils can use partnerships and twinning to motivate key sections of the community,

such as ethnic minorities, young people and disadvantaged groups, who may not always be involved in local authority activities or have contact abroad. Councils can stimulate local interest and make links with overseas counterparts possible.

Looking at other communities often encourages people to look more closely at their own environment and social structures. This, in turn, can boost civic pride, self-esteem and confidence.

Enhancing youth activities

Overseas partnerships can give young people their first experience of life abroad. Youth exchanges or work experience can not only prove enjoyable, but can also increase practical skills and enable young people to compete more successfully in the global workplace. Contact with foreign counterparts can provide an environment in which young people can explore social and political issues, deepening their awareness and increasing self-confidence.

General benefits

Promoting community well being

Bringing together counterpart organisations, experts and interest groups in health and social welfare can lead to improvements in community services and facilities. Sharing expertise and experience on issues such as unemployment and drug and alcohol dependency, and comparing facilities for the young and elderly can bring about changes at a local level that can make a real difference to people's lives.

Public awareness and learning

Taking part in international partnerships can raise public consciousness and encourage debate on major global issues, such as the environment or racism. Partnerships can also be used as a learning tool for all age groups in understanding the social, political, environmental and economic issues that face other parts of the world.

Education

International partnerships can enhance formal and informal education and lifelong learning for all members of the community. By providing a realistic context for learning, local authority links bring textbooks to life and serve as a resource for many subjects. Activities can be developed that relate directly to the national curriculum or an exam syllabus to improve educational achievement. Simply taking part in a twinning link can also boost key skills such as communication, language learning and organisation.

Economic and business development

International partnerships allow small and large organisations, in both the public and private sectors, to explore potential economic benefits of cooperation. Many business partnerships have come about as a result of local authority twinning links, with companies finding it easier to trade with people they know and understand.

Tourism is recognised as a key component to the economy of many areas, and overseas partnerships can help promote an area.

3/ The Swindon town twinning network – roles and objectives

The Constitution is enclosed with this report.

4/ Swindon's civic and official town twinning

Swindon Borough Council enjoys a long-established official civic twinning agreement with a town in Europe and a town in Central America. The first such relationship was with Salzgitter in Germany and later with Ocotal in the country of Nicaragua. Swindon Borough Council also has an official friendship link with a town in Poland called Torun.

A number of Swindon's Parish Councils also have official civic twin town agreements in Europe. These are :-

Lydiards - Tessy Sur Vire (France)

Wroughton - St Germain Les Corbeil (France)

Haydon Wick - La Garenne (France)

Highworth – Pontorson (France)

5/ The Swindon community and town twinning

The Swindon community have been just as heavily involved and supportive of official civic town twinning as has Swindon Borough Council and the Parish Councils themselves.

Town twinning community groups and association have been set up in Swindon to support both Swindon and Parish Council official and civic twin towns. These include :-

Swindon – Salzgitter Association

Swindon – Ocotal Link

Swindon – Torun Friendship group

Highworth – Pontorson Twinning Association

Lydiards - Tessy Sur Vire Twinning Association

Wroughton - St Germain Les Corbeil Twinning Association

Haydon Wick - La Garenne Link

Their remits in Swindon are: -

- To help raise the profile of the official and civic twin towns within the community.
- To raise funds for reciprocal community town twinning projects.
- To advise and work in partnership with Swindon council officers and members about the benefits of town twinning and projects.
- To undertake unofficial exchanges of groups from within their community.
- To develop community projects which benefit official town twinning.

A number of other local community organisations have also been involved in official civic town twinning activities. : -

- Swindon Chamber of Commerce
University of Bath in Swindon
Business Link
- Swindon College
- NEW college
- Faith groups
-

Their remits are to: -

- Offer reciprocal partnerships with similar organisations
- Develop reciprocal projects with Swindon's twin towns.
- Advise and supply specialist support and guidance to the council and community on issues relating to Swindon's twin towns.

6/ How the council can assist town twinning

- Host the Town-Twinning network every two months at civic offices. Deliver, update and review its roles and objectives.
- Undertake an official members civic visit to Salzgitter every consecutive year and to host an official members civic visit from Salzgitter every consecutive year.
- Offer grants of (up to £1000) for official civic town twinning projects.
- Use of the European Funding Officer for 1.5 days per month to help raise funds and support both civic official and non-official town-twinning projects.
- Looking at town twinning best practice in Swindon and across the world.
- Advice and guidance linking both council officers and community groups on town twinning projects with existing official civic twin towns, e.g. youth exchanges, school curriculum projects, exchanges, secondments.

- Advice and guidance on requests for new and potential agreements, links and projects with other towns and regions across the world.
- Links and partnerships with local bodies and organisations with interest in international affairs. This could help develop town-twinning projects.
- Links to International and representative bodies on town twinning, e.g. Local Government International Bureau, Embassies,

To: The Chair and Members of
the Town Twinning Network

Date: 22nd March 2005

By: Director of Law and Corporate
Governance

Parish/Ward: All

Reports from the Town Twinning Associations and Links

1 Purpose

1.1 To provide verbal reports updating members of the Town Twinning Network on the activities of the following Town Twinning Associations and Links since the last meeting of 18th January 2005:

- Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association
- Swindon Ocotal Link
- Swindon Torun Link
- La Garenne Link
- Other Twins/Links present at this meeting

2 Recommendations

2.1 That members of the Town Twinning Network note the activities of the Twinning Associations and Links.

3 Financial and Procurement Implications

3.1 There are no direct financial or procurement implications relating to this update. Any future activity that has financial implications would be subject to a separate report.

4 Social, Environmental, Staffing, Legal/Human Rights, Risk and Other Implications

4.1 Social Implications – This report has no direct social implications. It is anticipated that any activity will strengthen links between Swindon and its twin towns and widen the horizons of the individuals and groups involved in twinning activities

- 4.2 Environmental Implications – There are no environmental implications arising from this report
- 4.3 Staffing Implications – There are no staffing implications arising from this report
- 4.4 Legal/Human Rights Implications – This report has no specific legal or human rights implications
- 4.5 All other Risk Implications – None
- 4.6 Links to Corporate Plan – The Council is committed to developing and promoting a strong local image and “pride of place” for all (objective 4 – an economically prosperous place).

5 Detail

- 5.1 The Town Twinning Network seeks to promote co-ordination and co-operation in the development of Twinning Links and in the development of other International friendship links between the people of Swindon and communities in other Countries.
- 5.2 The Town Twinning Network meets five times a year in order to encourage the development of International friendship links and commercial links between the people of Swindon and communities in other Countries by the provision of a forum for discussion and the exchange of information.
- 5.3 Each of the Town Twins and Links will give a verbal update at the meeting on the activities that have been undertaken since the last Town Twinning Network meeting.

6 Appendices

- 6.1 None

7 Date

- 7.1 8th March 2005

The Director of Finance and Director of Law and Corporate Governance are consulted on all reports.

Further information regarding this report can be obtained from Alison Smith on Direct Dial No. 463612 or Email alsmith@swindon.gov.uk

The Lead Member for the service area subject to this report is Councillor Mike Bawden, Leader of the Council.

Agenda Item 7

By virtue of paragraph(s) 5, 7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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