

# Swindon Borough Council

## Town Twinning Network

**Thursday, 17 November 2005**

Committee Room 2, Civic Offices, Swindon (Anticipated meeting room)

**At 6.00 p.m.**

**Conservative  
Councillors**  
Deborah Baylies  
Doreen Dart  
Chris Van Roon

**Labour  
Councillors**  
David Glaholm  
Derique Montaut

**Liberal Democrat  
Councillors**  
Stan Pajak

John 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  
Mike Ide, Wroughton - St Germain les Corbeil Twinning Association  
Dr D Worsnip, Highworth - Pontorson Twinning Association  
Daryl Jones, Senior Economic Development Officer

**Committee Officer:** Alison Smith (Telephone 01793 463612)

Email: [alsmith@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:alsmith@swindon.gov.uk)

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

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## **AGENDA**

- 1. Appointment of Chair**
- 2. Appointment of Vice-Chair.**
- 3. Apologies for Absence**
- 4. Minutes** (Pages 1 - 4)  
To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> September, 2005.
- 5. 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.
- 6. Town Twinning Link with Chattanooga, USA** (Pages 5 - 10)
- 7. Reports from the Town Twinning Associations and Links** (Pages 11 - 12)
- 8. Update on Swindon Borough Council Projects** (Pages 13 - 14)
- 9. Update on Youth Exchanges** (Pages 15 - 16)

**Date of Despatch:** 09 November 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**

**THURSDAY, 15 SEPTEMBER 2005**

PRESENT:- Councillor Derique Montaut (Chair), Councillors Debbie Baylies, Doreen Dart and Chris van Roon, Mr John Mayell (Swindon Ocotal Link), Mr Reg Clarke and Peter Mallinson (Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association), Mr Bruce Clarke (Swindon Ocotal Link), Mr D Ainscough (Lydiards - Tessy sur Vire Twinning Association), Mr Daryl Jones (Senior Economic Development Officer).

Mr. Andy Lane (Chattanooga Link) was also in attendance.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors David Glaholm and Stan Pajak, Ms Steph Trinci, Mr Phil Eagle and Mr Mike Ide and Dr David Worsnip.

**29. Minutes**

Resolved – That subject to the changes set out below the minutes of the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2005, be confirmed.

(a) Minute 25 lines 2 to 6 be amended to read Daryl confirmed that attendance at the Network is open to groups within a 50 mile radius from who the Network feels it can learn from to attend future meetings, at the invitation of the Chair, to give a short presentation on the type of activities they are involved in. Officers also be requested to bring back to a future meeting of this Forum a report setting out clear definitions for community groups within the context of town twinning and setting out a focus for future work.

(b) Minute 25(3) be amended to read “a press release be sent out regarding the activities of the Network and encouraging all other groups in Swindon, including Muslim nation communities, with international links to participate;”

**30. Public Question Time**

No public questions were received during the meeting.

**31. Town Twinning Link with Chattanooga, USA**

The Forum considered a report from the Director of Cultural Change setting out information relating to the benefits of an official friendship link with Chattanooga, United States of America.

Andy Lane expanded on issues set out in the report and set out some of the immediate and potential long-term benefits of a friendship link.

The Forum generally agreed that the proposal was interesting and could be worth pursuing.

The Forum also discussed membership forms and access to information pertaining to grant aid. There appeared to be confusion as to whether membership forms had been amended and whether such a form needed to be completed to qualify for funding. The Senior Economic Development Officer was asked to clarify the situation and report to a future meeting.

Resolved – (1) That Andy Lane to prepare a report, in liaison with the Council's Town Twinning Officer setting out a mission statement, a business plan, financial and other resources implications and a breakdown of what it was hoped to achieve through the Friendship Agreement in order that the project could be progressed in more detail.

(2) That officers report progress to the next meeting of the Forum together with any feedback received from the Swindon Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

### **32. Update on Swindon Borough Council Projects**

The Director of Cultural Change submitted a report dated 6<sup>th</sup> September 2005, setting out a report on activities of Swindon Borough Council in relation to Twinning projects since the July meeting of the Forum.

Resolved - (1) That the report be noted.

(2) That the Senior Economic Development Officer be requested to discuss with the Swindon Chamber of Commerce and Industry the inclusion of a representative from that organisation on this Forum.

### **33. Reports from the Town Twinning Associations and Links**

The Forum considered (a) a report of the Director of Law and Corporate Governance dated 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2005, and (b) the following verbal reports from Town Twinning Associations and Links:

#### Swindon Ocotal Link (SOL)

Bruce Clark reported the following activities of SOL:

➤ A fund raising event was to be held between 7.00 to 11.00pm at the Even Swindon Community Hall on 21<sup>st</sup> October, and that a flyer publishing the event was to be produced.

➤ On 9<sup>th</sup> November 9 people were leaving Swindon to visit Ocotal to strengthen ties and take £8,000 of funding for local projects.

➤ Next year would be the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Ocotal Link and a significant programme of events was expected, including school links. The Network's support would be sought, as the cost of inviting Ocotal representatives to attend would be in the region of £800 per person. The Chair noted that this point should be raised with the Leader as soon as possible.

#### Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association

Reg Clarke reported that a civic delegation of 10 representatives from Salzgitter would be in Swindon from 29<sup>th</sup>/30<sup>th</sup> October to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Town Twinning Agreement between Swindon and Salzgitter with the Mayor, two former Mayors and a representative of the German Embassy from London.

### **34. Town Twinning Network Financial Position**

The Director of Law and Corporate Governance submitted a report dated 6<sup>th</sup> September 2005, setting out the financial position of the Town Twinning Network, together with a request for funding received in respect of the Civic delegation from Salzgitter.

The Network expressed its concern that the application for funding had not been made in accordance with normal procedures. Whilst there was consensus that the grant shouldn't be refused on this occasion the Network took a very strong view that all future applications should not be considered until the proper procedures had been met.

Resolved – (1) That the Town Twinning Network noted the reduction in the Revenue Budget 2005/06 to £2,00 from £5,000 from the previous year.

(2) That this Network welcomes the carry forward of the under spend amounting to £12,915.

(3) That the Director of Law and Corporate Governance be requested to approve the sum of £400 of the under spend to fund the preparation and publication of a leaflet promoting Swindon based Town Twinning.

(4) That, due to the exceptional circumstances the Director of Law and Corporate Governance be recommended to make an exception to the rules on a one off basis and approve the transfer of £3,000 of funding to the Mayoral Budget to help cover the costs of the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Civic delegation from Salzgitter from the budget under spend identified by officers and that this request not constitute a precedent for future funding requests.

(5) That each group in the Network be requested to complete a membership form/Business Plan setting out their objectives and any financial implications together with any possible call on the Town Twinning Grant budget in this and future years.

(6) That officers currently supporting the Town Twinning Network, and in particular Daryl Jones, be thanked and that the Chair be requested to meet with the Leader of Swindon Borough Council to discuss whether the Borough is willing to give greater priority to Town Twinning and make further officer resources available to the Network.

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To: The Chair and Members of  
the Town Twinning Network

Date: 17 November 2005

By: Group Director, Partnerships  
and Performance

Parish/Ward: All

### **Update on the Potential Chattanooga Link**

#### **1 Purpose**

- 1.1 Andy Lane from Darack motorsport will attend the Town Twinning Network on 17<sup>th</sup> November to give a verbal update on the progress that has been made with regards to the potential link between Swindon and Chattanooga, USA.

#### **2 Recommendations**

- 2.1 That members of the Town Twinning Network note the progress made in relation to the potential link between Swindon and Chattanooga, USA.
- 2.2 That the Cabinet be recommended that the Council sign the Friendship and Co-operation Agreement between Swindon and Chattanooga, USA. (as attached at Appendix 1)

#### **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 A request from the business community has been placed with the Town Twinning Network to create an official Swindon friendship link with the city of Chattanooga in the USA. This is the first international link that Chattanooga has made with a town in the UK.
- 5.3 American twinning is seen very much as increasing commercial as well as social benefits. The way in which Swindon currently views twinning would need to be broadened. This would not detract from its ethos but broaden its horizon.
- 5.4 Currently Britain is seen as the USA’s best partner in Europe and Swindon can take advantage of that.
- 5.5 The background of both Chattanooga and Swindon are very similar:-
  - 5.5.1 Both are famous and founded around the railway
  - 5.5.2 Both are seen strategically located in the countries for distribution and communication
- 5.6 Both are in the process of developing their commercial hubs

## **6 Appendices**

- 6.1 Appendix 1 - Draft Agreement for an official Swindon friendship link with Chattanooga.

## **7 Date**

- 7.1 8<sup>th</sup> November 2005

The Director of Finance and Director of Law and Democratic Services are consulted on all reports.



Further information regarding this report can be obtained from Daryl Jones on Direct Dial No. 463158 or Email [djones@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:djones@swindon.gov.uk)  
The Lead Member for the service area subject to this report is Councillor Mike Bawden, Leader of the Council.

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## **A FRIENDSHIP AND CO-OPERATION AGREEMENT**

BETWEEN

**The Borough of Swindon UK represented by:**

1. Councillor Raymond William Fisher FCMA, The Major of the Borough of Swindon
2. Councillor Mike Bawden, Leader of Swindon Borough Council

and

**The City of Chattanooga USA represented by:**

1. Ron Littlefield, Mayor of the City

### **1. Agreement Intent**

1.1. WHEREAS SWINDON and CHATTANOOGA wish to

- 1.1.1. Promote the development of an international friendship link with each other and
- 1.1.2. Engage the inhabitants, institutions, non-governmental organisations, companies, and educational establishments in their respective municipalities in the process concerning collaboration between them,
- 1.1.3. With the intention of developing a twinning/sistering relationship.

### **2. Agreement Objective**

2.1. CHATTANOOGA and SWINDON, therefore agree to enter into a Friendship and Co-operation Agreement and begin the process of working together in the following areas:

- 2.1.1. Development of trade and economy by co-ordinating business links
- 2.1.2. Education by promoting links between schools, colleges and universities
- 2.1.3. Culture and tourism by the promotion of exchanges of all kinds between the people of Swindon and Chattanooga
- 2.1.4. Mutual exchange of information and ideas to strengthen mutual respect, and understanding
- 2.1.5. Environmental protection and ecological education (Chattanooga's environmental assets include the Tennessee Aquarium and headquarters for Tennessee Valley Authority)
- 2.1.6. With the 2012 Olympics taking place in London, Swindon offers an ideal location for accommodation and training which US athletes may wish to make use of. Chattanooga may benefit as a portal for US Olympians to access its Sister City/Twin City, Swindon.

### **3. Agreement Condition(s)**

- 3.1. Either Party can withdraw from this Agreement without prior notice and without stating any reasons
- 3.2. Agreement and time scales to be implemented by which time a full twinning agreement is forged.

#### **4. Signatures**

##### **Representatives of Swindon**

##### **Representative of Chattanooga**

1. Mayor of Swindon

2. Leader of Swindon Borough Council

President of Chattanooga

Dated XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

To: The Chair and Members of  
the Town Twinning Network

Date: 17<sup>th</sup> November 2005

By: Director of Law and  
Democratic Services

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 15<sup>th</sup> September 2005:

- Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association
- Swindon Ocotal Link
- Swindon Torun Link
- La Garenne Link
- Highworth-Pontorson Twinning Association
- 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 Plans and Policies (in particular to Swindon 2010) – 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 31<sup>st</sup> October 2005

The Director of Finance and Director of Law and Democratic Services 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](mailto:alsmith@swindon.gov.uk)

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

To: The Chair and Members of  
the Town Twinning Network

Date: 17 November 2005

By: Group Director, Partnership  
and Policy

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 15 September 2005,

#### **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 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2005 as follows:-
- 5.4 Salzgitter - Training Bridge exchange of 4 Salzgitter Council trainees currently here in Swindon for 3 weeks.
- 5.5 Salzgitter – Meeting with Youth leaders to discuss future youth activities with Salzgitter. Youth exchange planned for Summer 2006.
- 5.6 Torun – Community exchange trip to Torun going ahead 18 – 21 November 2005.
- 5.7 Ocotal - Meeting with Youth leaders to discuss future youth activities with Ocotal. Youth exchange planned for Summer 2006.

## **6 Appendices**

- 6.1 None.

## **7 Date**

- 7.1 8<sup>th</sup> November 2005

The Director of Finance and Director of Law and Democratic Services are consulted on all reports.

Further information regarding this report can be obtained from Daryl Jones on Direct Dial No. 463158 or Email [djones@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:djones@swindon.gov.uk).

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



To: The Chair and Members of  
the Town Twinning Network

Date: 17 November 2005

By: Group Director, Partnerships  
and Performance

Parish/Ward: All

### **Update on Youth Exchanges**

#### **1 Purpose**

- 1.1 To provide a verbal update on the development of youth exchanges between Swindon's twin towns and friendship links in 2006 to members of the Network.

#### **2 Recommendations**

- 2.1 That members of the Network note the progress made with regards to youth exchanges between Swindon's twin towns and friendship links in 2006.

#### **3 Financial and Procurement Implications**

- 3.1 There are no financial or procurement implications relating to this report.

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

- 4.1 Social Implications – involvement of groups of young people, some from disadvantaged backgrounds across Swindon.
- 4.2 Environmental Implications – the young people will take international flights to travel to their destinations across the world.
- 4.3 Staffing Implications – the youth exchanges will involve the support and assistance from youth officers during the period of the exchange abroad. Hosting implications include a high level of both full and part-time staff involvement in planning and implementation.
- 4.4 Legal/Human Rights Implications – there are none relating to this report.
- 4.5 All other Risk Implications – there are none relating to this report.
- 4.6 Links to Corporate Plans and Policies (in particular to Swindon 2010) – Promise No. 24: we will provide an enhanced youth service that is responsive to young people. By 2006, at least 25% of young people will be in contact with the service and Ofsted inspectors will judge it “good” by 2008.

## **5 Detail**

- 5.1 There are a number of planned and proposed youth exchanges to take place during 2006 between Swindon's twin towns and friendship links. The Senior Economic Development Officer will update members of the network at this meeting on these proposed exchanges.

## **6 Appendices**

- 6.1 None

## **7 Date**

- 7.1 8th November 2005

The Director of Finance and the Director of Law and Democratic Services are consulted on all reports. The following officers and agencies were consulted on this report:

None

The following Ward Councillors were consulted or informed of the contents of this report:

None

## **THE FOLLOWING UNPUBLISHED DOCUMENTS HAVE BEEN RELIED ON IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT:**

None

Further information regarding this report can be obtained from Daryl Jones on Direct Dial No. 463158 or Email [djones@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:djones@swindon.gov.uk)

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