

**DRAFT**

**Kildare County Council Twinning Policy**

2017

## 1. Introduction

Twinning can be defined as a coming together of two communities/regions seeking to strengthen or develop common interests including education, economic development, arts/culture , tourism, sports and community.

### **Benefits of Twinning:**

- Builds capacity through the exchange of skills and knowledge both at community and organisational level.
- Allows the sharing of best practices that have been used by others and that have proven effective.
- Potential for collaboration with the proposed town or region on projects which may be of benefit to both.
- Economic benefits, which are likely to be gained in terms of trade, commerce and tourism.
- The benefits to be gained from political co-operation and interaction.
- Promotes solidarity and a feeling of belonging to a larger community.
- The potential for cultural exchange between community, arts and sporting groups.

## 2. Legislative background

Twinning is a reserved function of the Council

Section 75 of the Local Government Act 2001 states:

75. (1) A local Authority may enter into arrangements for the twinning of its administrative area or a part of it or establish other similar links with any other area, whether within or outside the state.
- (2) The decision to enter into an arrangement under subsection (1) is a reserved function
- (3) The local authority shall not enter into an arrangement under subsection (1) unless, having had regard to the following matters, it is satisfied that the arrangement is justified:
- (a) the benefits likely to accrue to its administrative area and the local community
  - (b) the social, cultural and general interests of its administrative area and the local community, and
  - (c) the total cost involved.
- (4) The minister may issue directions to local authorities or specified classes of local authorities for the purposes of this section.
- (5) There shall be recorded in the annual report of a local authority for every year expenditure and other particulars in relation to the performance of its function under this section.

## 3. Twinning in Kildare

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County Kildare and a number of towns within Kildare have established successful twinning partnerships over the years.

At present the establishment and management of twinning in Kildare is either by:

- Kildare Local Authority Twinning Committee as in the case of County Twinning - Lexington and Deauville

or by

- An independent community led committee e.g. Town twinning's

### **Twinning budget:**

The County Twinning Committee is managed by a Local Authority staff member and has a budget assigned .

The town twinning apply for grants to the local authority to run their activities.

Grants are issued based on submitted work plans.

The following is a table detailing twinning in Kildare.

<b>MD</b>	<b>Name of town</b>	<b>Twinned with</b>	<b>Dates</b>
County	County Kildare	Lexington & Deauville	1984 and Early 1990
Kildare/Newbridge	Newbridge	Bad Lippspringe, Germany	1997
		Oscala, Florida	2008
		Argentre Du Pleiss, France	2017
	Kildare Town	Corps Nuds, France	1992
Celbridge/Leixlip	Leixlip	Bressiure, France	1996
Athy	Athy	Grandvilliers, France	2003
Naas	Naas	St David's, Wales	

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		Dillingen, Germany	
		Casalattico, Italy	
		Allaire, France	
		Omaha, USA	
Maynooth	Maynooth	Canet-en-Rous sillon, France	2011

### 4. Protocol for Twinning

#### **New Twinning Liaison Committee:**

A Twinning Liaison Committee to be established. It is envisaged that the committee should meet twice a year with a view to having a strategic overview of twinning .

#### **4.1 Membership**

- 1 elected representative from each of the five MD (or 2 representatives from the CPG)
- 1 Local Authority staff member
- 1 LEO Staff member
- Kildare Tourism Manager
- Kildare County Council Arts Officer.

There is further scope for developing stronger economic, cultural and tourism links which can be achieved by involving Kildare Failte and Kildare LEO, Kildare Chamber of Commerce and the Arts.

#### **4.2 Role of the Twinning Liaison committee**

- Ensuring that any new or established twinning is complying with Kildare County Council Twinning policy.

- Reviewing and approving established and new twinning committees annual plans and budget.
- Providing support and advice where necessary to twinning committees on tourism and economic, arts/culture activities.
- Presenting end of year twinning report to Council/MD.

### 5. Twinning Committees

All twinning committees should have a strong foundation in the community, regardless of this, committees should include representatives from:

#### 5.1 **Membership**

- Elected Representative from County or Municipal District
- Educational sector - School, Youth reach etc
- Tourism
- Chamber of Commerce/Enterprise
- Arts/Culture/Sport
- Young people

#### 5.2 **Role of Twinning Committee**

- Co-ordinate and liaise with the overseas partner
- Develop a strategy - Programme of activities
- Funding - Grant application, fund raising
- Financial management - Make financial returns to local authority
- Travel - Coordinate transport, bookings etc

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- Membership - Encourage new membership and ensure community involvement
- Manage and organise host families/activities
- Develop a PR strategy - newsletter, press releases and updates for website etc

### 5.3 Financial and reporting requirements

- A annual work plan(Template provided) which should include your overall objectives for your twinning to be submitted along with a detailed budget request. This will be required by April of each year.
- Once approved by Twinning Liaison Committee grant will be issued.
- All Vouched receipts will need to be submitted no later than November of each year.
- End of year report including photos will need to be submitted by December. Report will be feature on Kildare County Council twinning webpage.
- Elected Representatives if attending twinning events overseas recoup expenses as per Circular 04/2017- "Revised arrangement for subsistence allowances abroad with effect from 1st April" In the case of Mayor or Chair of Municipal District travelling and expense being occurred to reciprocate hospitality. Payment will be made based on submission of receipts on return.
- Where possible gifts should be purchased from businesses based in Kildare with a maximum spend of € 600.00. If appropriate, gifts received should be displayed in public buildings e g Libraries/Community centres

### 6. Procedure for New Twinning

- a) Find the right partner - Each twinning is unique but a twinning partner should have a number of common interests e g geographical location, population sizes, economic and tourism activities.
- b) Submission in writing should be made to the local Municipal District for their consideration/Approval?/

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- c) Following approval, exploratory visits should take place, based on these visits it can be confirmed if the twinning arrangement is compatible.
- d) Define clear common objectives - Both twinning partners should be very clear from the outset what they want from the twinning. Be clear on your objectives and activities.
- e) Twinning Ceremony to take place, one in each community. A Charter is signed and the partnership is formalised.
- f) Plan activities that build the basis for new exchanges - avoid once off activities if possible.
- g) Plan your budget and keep good financial records
- h) Your annual work plan should be developed along with budget and submitted to Twinning Liaison Committee for approval.