



Council

28 January 2020

Title	Report of the Head of Governance - Civic Link with Morphou, Cyprus
Report of	Head of Governance
Wards	All Wards
Status	Public
Urgent	No
Key	No
Enclosures	None
Officer Contact Details	Angela Richardson, Mayoral Services & Civic Events Manager, 020 8359 2179, angela.richardson@barnet.gov.uk

Summary

Council are requested to pass a resolution to reaffirm the municipal link between the London Borough of Barnet and Morphou in advance of a delegation from Morphou visiting the Borough in the 25th Anniversary year of the twinning in March 2020.

Officers Recommendations

1. That the Council of the London Borough of Barnet reaffirms the Municipal Link in the 25th Anniversary year of the twinning between the London Borough of Barnet and Morphou which has been established for the purposes of furthering good will between the two communities through the exchange of views and ideas and by personal contact among the citizens of the two towns, and that the Council sincerely hope that the link will prosper and flourish in the coming years.

2. That an engrossment on vellum of the foregoing resolution over the Common Seal of the Corporation be presented to the representatives of the Morphou.

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 The London Borough of Barnet has ‘twin town’ civic links with: Chaville, France; Kreis Siegen Wittgenstein, Germany; Le Raincy, France; Montclair, USA; Morphou, Cyprus; Ramat Gan, Israel; and Tempelhof, Germany. In addition, there are two towns – Jinja in Uganda and Barnet in the state of Vermont in the USA with which the Council is linked but by correspondence only.
- 1.2 Running alongside the twinning are the “friends” organisations which formed in Barnet to maintain contact with their counterparts at grass roots level. The friends organise visits to and from their respective twin towns independently of the Council. They maintain much closer and regular contact than the Council. Should there be an official visit to Barnet by a civic delegation from one of the town towns, the Mayoral Services & Civic Events Manager will liaise with the appropriate “friends” organisation so that they can be involved in the visit.
- 1.3 Morphou was twinned with the London Borough of Barnet in March 1995. Morphou is within the northern part of Cyprus which has been Turkish occupied since 1974. The inhabitants of Morphou were forced to abandon their town following the Turkish occupation and the Council of Morphou has since been in exile in Limassol. By maintaining the links between Barnet and Morphou the residents of the borough are furthering goodwill between the communities and showing support for the Greek Cypriots who have been forced to live in exile.
- 1.4 The municipal council consists of the Mayor and 10 members elected for 5 years.
- 1.5 The last civic visit took place in October 2019 when representatives from the London Borough of Barnet attended a Rally crossing the Buffer Zone into Morphou.
- 1.6 Council are requested to pass the resolution detailed in recommendation 1. above in order the resolution can be presented to the representatives of Morphou when they visit in March 2020.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 As set out in section 1 above.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

- 3.1 Council could decide not to pass a resolution to reaffirm the civic link between Barnet and Morphou. This is not recommended as the Barnet/Morphou relationship is flourishing and the Mayor of Morphou in exile has requested we mark the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the twinning.

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 The Mayor's Office will organise for the resolution to be printed on vellum, signed and sealed for presentation to representatives of Morphou Municipality.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

- 5.1.1 N/A

5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

- 5.2.1 Any cost associated with town twinning arrangements are met from the Mayoral Services and Civic Events budget.

5.3 Social Value

- 5.3.1 The promotion of civic links with Barnet's twin towns enhances community cohesion and develops international cooperation.

5.4 Legal and Constitutional References

- 5.4.1 On 22 January 1997, the Policy & Resources Committee agreed that a special meeting of the Council should be convened for the purposes of establishing a civic link. The resolution above is a reaffirmation of a civic link agreed in March 1995 following informal contacts by the then Mayor and the Chair of the Policy and Resources Committee. A decision of Council rather than a decision of a special meeting of the Council, is appropriate to pass the resolution detailed in recommendation 1. above.

5.5 Risk Management

- 5.5.1 N/A

5.6 Equalities and Diversity

- 5.6.1 N/A

5.7 Corporate Parenting

- 5.7.1 N/A

5.8 Consultation and Engagement

- 5.8.1 N/A

5.8 Insight

- 5.8.1 N/A

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 6.1 Council, 7 March 1995, Proposed Municipal Link with Morphou, Cyprus – a Special Council meeting passed a resolution to form a municipal link with Morphou in Cyprus.
- 6.2 Policy & Resources Committee, 22 January 1997, Town Twinning – the Chief Executive presented a report on town twinning arrangements where the committee resolved that the establishment of a civic link should be via a resolution agreed at a special meeting of the Council in addition to various other matters relating to town twinning