

REPORT

To: BELLSHILL AND DISTRICT AREA COMMITTEE		Subject: TOWN TWINNING	
From: DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION			
Date: 17 March, 2000	Ref: CA/AC/B/9/SMcH		

1. **Background**

Enclosed for your information are Minute extracts and reports relating to Town Twinning arrangements. These matters have been considered previously by the former Bellshill and District Area Committee.

As will be noted from the papers (1) the Official Twinning Link for the Bellshill and District Area Committee is Schweinfurt, Germany, and (2) that where practical the Area Committee will be consulted to assist the General Purposes Committee in their consideration of twinning matters.

2. **Recommendation**

That the position be noted.


 Director of Administration

**EXCERPT OF MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE BELLSHILL AREA COMMITTEE HELD ON 3
DECEMBER 1998****TWINNING: AREA COMMITTEES**

3. With reference to paragraph 10 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 10 September 1998, when the Committee, having considered a report dated 11 August 1998 by the Director of Administration in relation to town twinning links, had agreed to continue consideration of the matter for a further report, there was submitted a report dated 24 November 1998 by the Director of Administration (1) outlining the background to the twinning link with Schweinfurt; (2) advising that, together with three other Area Committees, the Bellshill and District Area Committee had been approved as an appropriate Committee for assisting in the twinning link with Schweinfurt, Germany and (3) listing schools, clubs, groups and businesses from the Bellshill and District area which had been involved in twinning exchanges with Schweinfurt.

Decided:

- (1) that it be noted that the official twinning link for the Bellshill and District Area Committee was Schweinfurt, Germany;
- (2) that where practical, the advice of the Area Committee be sought to assist the decisions of the General Purposes Committee in determining twinning matters, and
- (3) that the contents of the report be otherwise noted.

REPORT

To: BELLSHILL AND DISTRICT AREA COMMITTEE		Subject: TWINNING: AREA COMMITTEES
From: DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION		
Date: 24 November 1998	Ref: CC/MR	

1. Introduction

- 1.1. Within the terms of reference for Area Committees there is included a requirement to assist in the development of town twinning links. The General Purposes Committee is required to consider the establishment of twinning links and all other related matters.
- 1.2. At a meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on 26 August 1998, it was agreed, amongst other things, that the Area Committees of Bellshill, Motherwell, Shotts and Harthill and Wishaw and Newmains be the appropriate Committees for the twinning link with Schweinfurt, Germany and that where practical, the advice of the appropriate Area Committee(s) be obtained to assist the decisions of the General Purposes Committee on twinning matters.
- 1.3. Having considered a report dated 11 August 1998 by the Director of Administration entitled "Twinning: Area Committees", the Area Committee, at their meeting on 10 September 1998, agreed to continue consideration of the matter for a further report to include information on the benefits which the twinning link with Schweinfurt had brought to local groups and businesses within the Bellshill and District area.
- 1.4. This report provides a background to twinning, the twinning link with Schweinfurt and summary information on the involvement between Schweinfurt and the local community, including Bellshill and District.

2. Background

- 2.1. The concept of town twinning originated over 40 years ago and developed rapidly in the UK following the second World War as many communities wished to consciously build up contact, friendship and co-operation with communities and other countries, mainly in Europe with France and Germany. Since then, the concept of twinning has undergone a series of changes as communities re-evaluated the content of their twinning relationships towards the educational, economic and technical aspects of twinning. Practical examples of such links include school/university exchanges, new markets and the co-operation of local authorities on projects of a technical nature in which skills are exchanged or transferred from one partner to another.

- 2.2. Links with Schweinfurt were formalised in 1962 by a predecessor authority and took account of the similarities in environment, working life and culture with the area of North Lanarkshire around Motherwell and the surrounding villages. Then, both areas had been affected by industrialisation. Now, in this post industrial era, both are actively trying to attract commerce and industry to create employment.
- 2.3. Since 1962, links with Schweinfurt have included a number of exchanges at several levels of activity. In addition to official delegations there have been reciprocal exchanges with schools, clubs, disabled groups, technical students, business people and individuals, many from within the Bellshill and District area. Those recorded on file as having participated in links with Schweinfurt include, Alba Youth Exchange Group, Brannock Youth Exchange, Cardinal Newman Youth Club, the Clottie Dumpling Company, Hunter Street Work Centre, New Stevenston Activity Club, Newarthill Youth Exchange Group (involving young people from Newarthill, Carfin, Holytown, New Stevenston and Cleland), Sacred Heart Primary School, Scot Trout, students on a work experience programme (undertaken in Schweinfurt's SKF Ballbearing Factory), United Neighbours Youth Group and Viewpark International Contact Group.

3. Conclusion

Twinning links with Schweinfurt have enabled the exchange of knowledge, skills and working practices with potentially far reaching consequences not easily quantifiable. They have provided access to another culture and created the opportunity for co-operation and the expansion of contacts, friendships and networks at individual, group and business levels. In these terms it is suggested that as town twinning evolves in conceptual and practical ways, the link with Schweinfurt will continue to be of value to the Bellshill and District area.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1. It is recommended that,
- (a) the Committee note that the official link for the Bellshill and District Area Committee is Schweinfurt;
 - (b) where practical, the advice of the Area Committee be sought to assist the decisions of the General Purposes Committee on twinning matters, and
 - (c) the Committee otherwise note the report.

4.2.2.19
 Director of Administration

For further information on the contents of this report please contact Carol Cluggie, Principal Administrative Officer on Extension 2241.

**EXCERPT OF MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE BELLSHILL AND DISTRICT AREA COMMITTEE HELD
ON 10 SEPTEMBER 1998**

TWINNING: AREA COMMITTEES

10. With reference to paragraph 29 of the Minute of the meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on 26 August 1998, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 11 August 1998 by the Director of Administration advising (1) that the Terms of Reference of the General Purposes Committee included the requirement to consider the establishment of and all other matters relating to Town Twinning Links; (2) that the Council had included in the Terms of Reference of Area Committees, a requirement to assist in the development of Twinning Links; (3) that the Bellshill Area Committee was one of four appropriate Area Committees for Twinning Links with Schweinfurt, Germany, and (4) that where practical, the advice of the appropriate Area Committee(s) be obtained to assist the decisions of the General Purposes Committee on Twinning matters.

Decided: that consideration of the matter be continued for a further report to include information on the benefits which the Twinning Link with Schweinfurt had brought to local groups and businesses within the Bellshill Area.

**EXCERPT OF MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON 26
AUGUST 1998**

TWINNING - AREA COMMITTEES

29. **C** There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 11 August 1998 by the Director of Administration advising (1) that the terms of reference of this Committee include the requirement to consider the establishment of and all other matters relating to town twinning links; (2) that having regard to the Council's decentralisation arrangements and the importance to twinning relationships of strong local roots, the Council had included in the terms of reference of Area Committees a requirement to assist in the development of twinning links, and (3) that the appropriate Area Committees for each twinning link might be as follows:-

Bron - Cumbernauld Area Committee
Meulan - Kilsyth and Villages Area Committee
Saint Denis - Coatbridge Area Committee
Campi Bisenzio - Airdrie and Coatbridge Area Committees
Gatchina - Airdrie and Coatbridge Area Committees
Schweinfurt - Bellshill, Motherwell, Shotts and Harthill and Wishaw and Newmains Area Committees

and (4) with regard to friendship links the appropriate Area Committees might be as follows:-

Airdrie, Alberta - Airdrie Area Committee
Les Marches - Northern Corridor Area Committee.

Decided:

- (1) that the appropriate Area Committees for each twinning link be as detailed above, and
- (2) that where practical, the advice of the appropriate Area Committee(s) be obtained to assist the decisions of the General Purposes Committee on twinning matters.

REPORT

To: GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE	Subject: TWINNING: AREA COMMITTEES	
From: DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION		
Date: 11 August 1998	Ref: JAF/AH	

1. Background

- 1.1 The terms of reference of the General Purposes Committee include the requirement to consider the establishment of and all other matters relating to Town Twinning links.
- 1.2 The Council, in consideration of its Scheme of Decentralisation, had particular regard to the importance to twinning relationships of strong local roots. For that reason the Council included, in the terms of reference of Area Committees, the obligation to assist in developing twinning links with any authority with which the Council has agreed a formal twinning scheme and which has been traditionally or generally associated with the area of the committee.
- 1.3 The Council, at its meeting on 14 May 1998 approved the recommendations of the General Purposes Committee that formal Twinning Agreements be entered into between North Lanarkshire Council and the communities of Bron, Meulan and St Denis in France, Campi Bisenzio in Italy, Gatchina in Russia and Schweinfurt in Germany and that links with Les Marches, France and Airdrie, Alberta be known at this stage as friendship links.

2. Further Proposals

- 2.1 Having regard to the terms of reference of the respective Committees, it is recommended that, wherever possible, the decisions of the General Purposes Committee with regard to twinning links be informed by advice from the appropriate Area Committee(s). To that end, it is suggested that in cases which are appropriate and, in particular, in which time permits, matters regarding twinning links should be referred, in the first instance, to the appropriate Area Committee(s) in order that advice to the General Purpose Committee may be provided. It is, however, in the nature of twinning that decisions require, on occasion, to be taken at short notice: in such circumstances it is recommended that the decision be taken through the normal committee structure and that the appropriate Area Committee(s) be thereafter advised.

3. Twin Town: Area Committee Links

- 3.1 For the purpose of implementing this report, it is suggested that the appropriate Area Committee(s) for each twinning link are as follows:-

Bron	-	Cumbernauld Area Committee
Meulan	-	Kilsyth & Villages Area Committee
St Denis	-	Coatbridge Area Committee
Campi Bisenzio	-	Airdrie and Coatbridge Area Committees
Gatchina	-	Airdrie and Coatbridge Area Committees
Schweinfurt	-	Bellshill, Motherwell, Shotts & Harthill and Wishaw & Newmains Area Committees

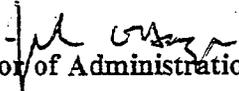
3.2 With regard to the friendship links, it is suggested that the appropriate Area Committees be as follows:-

Airdrie, Alberta - Airdrie Area Committee
Les Marches - Northern Corridor Area Committee

4. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee agree:-

- 4.1 that, in instances in which it is practical, the advice of the appropriate Area Committee(s) be obtained to inform the decisions of the General Purposes Committee on twinning matters; and
- 4.2 that, for this purpose, the appropriate Area Committees for each twinning link be as detailed in this report.


Director of Administration

Members seeking further information on the contents of this report are asked to contact John Fleming, Head of Central Services on Extension 2228.