

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

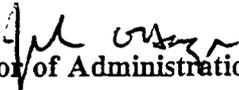
3.2 With regard to the friendship links, it is suggested that the appropriate Area Committees be as follows:-

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.