

PERTH & KINROSS COUNCIL

Provost's Sub-Committee

5 February 2024

ESTABLISHING A TWINNING RELATIONSHIP WITH NIKOPOL, UKRAINE

Report by Democratic Services Manager

(Report No. 24/21)

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide members of the Sub-Committee with an update on proposals to establish a twinning relationship with Nikopol in Ukraine and proposals for next steps moving forward.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Sub-Committee:

- notes the contents of this report and welcomes the mutual signing of a letter of intent by Perth and Nikopol;
- agrees to take steps to establish a 'Friends of Nikopol' group whose membership shall be drawn from the Perth & Kinross area and will be responsible for the cultural and social aspects of the partnership;
- agrees to the appointment of an Elected Member representative on the Friends of Nikopol group;
- makes a recommendation to Council to proceed with establishing a formal twinning relationship between Perth and Nikopol subject to further due diligence checks and the successful formation of a Friends of Nikopol group.

3. STRUCTURE OF REPORT

- 3.1 This report is structured over the following sections:

- Section 4: Background
- Section 5: City of Nikopol
- Section 6: Progress
- Section 7: Current situation and next steps
- Section 8: Conclusion

4. BACKGROUND

On 9 March 2022, Council resolved to explore options for twinning with a city within Ukraine once the conflict situation on the ground allowed. This was motivated by a wish to both show solidarity with the Ukrainian people and to provide practical support in the re-establishment of the essential services for everyday life in Ukraine once the conflict is over.

This offer was extended to the Ukrainian Consul in Edinburgh and discussions were held with both the Ukrainian Consul General to Scotland and the Ukrainian Ambassador to the UK in order to find suitable potential partners. Upon the advice of the Ukrainian diplomatic team, the city of Nikopol in the Dnipropetrovsk region was identified as a suitable twinning partner for Perth based on its size and the two cities' shared river-based heritages. Both Nikopol and Perth grew and flourished as trading posts thanks to their proximity to river crossings. Furthermore, Nikopol is the capital town of the Zaporizhian Cossacks and the historical base for the Cossack.

At the Council meeting on 6 December 2023, the Provost updated elected members that a letter of intent to form an established twinning between Perth and Nikopol in Ukraine had been signed.

Establishment of Twin City Relationships

Twin city relationships usually start with two communities identifying they have commonalities and similarities, and look to exchange cultural, economic and education activities. Common factors include shared historical & cultural ties and similar demographics and economic strengths.

Whilst the twin city relationships will be established through formal agreements between the local authorities of the two cities, on a day to day basis the people of both communities will take forward twinning projects and initiatives.

Successful collaborations not only enhance the understanding and appreciation of different cultures and traditions but can lead to economic development through trade and investment opportunities and shared knowledge and best practices.

5. CITY OF NIKOPOL

- 5.1 The City of Nikopol sits on the banks of the river Dnieper and is the fourth-most populous city in the Dnipropetrovsk province, located in southeastern Ukraine. Nikopol is also a city based on a river, that thrived on a critical river crossing, and grew as a trading centre for the region.
- 5.2 Nikopol is a powerful industrial city which has several pipe producing factories and steel rolling mills. The Nikopol Ferroalloy Plant is the largest in Europe and the second largest in the world in the production of Ferromanganese (FeMn) and Ferrosilicomanganese (FeSiMn).
- 5.3 Nikopol has a similar history to Perth when it comes to its place in history around the recognition of kings, with Nikopol being a capital town of the Zaporizhian Cossacks and a historical base for the Cossack Sich (king).
- 5.4 Nikopol is a UNESCO city of integrity and also a UNESCO city of learning.

6. PROGRESS

- 6.1 Following the initial contact made by the Ukrainian Ambassador on our behalf to Nikopol, an exchange took place between the Provost and the Mayor of Nikopol to identify if this was a good match from a twinning perspective.
- 6.2 It was then agreed that during a trip to Ukraine in November 2023, Councillor Steven Carr would visit Nikopol to hold exploratory discussions with the Mayor and city officials with a view to signing a letter of intent. At the conclusion of that meeting, the letter of intent was signed by the two parties (see attached, Appendix A).
- 6.3 The letter of intent establishes that the two cities will work together with a view to co-operating to establish friendly relations between the two cities to benefit their residents in the following three regards:
1. Local economic development
 2. Development of social infrastructure
 3. Crisis management.

A framework for progression of these activities will be developed as and when circumstances allow.

7. CURRENT SITUATION AND NEXT STEPS

- 7.1 At the time of writing, Nikopol is only 5 miles from the front-line of the Russian offensive as part of the ongoing conflict and is shelled regularly. Therefore the usual twinning visits and cultural exchanges will not currently be practical.
- 7.2 It is therefore proposed that a 'Friends of Nikopol' group be established in Perth in anticipation of a restoration of peaceful times in Nikopol. In the meantime, the group can meet virtually with Ukrainian counterparts (whether in Nikopol or in exile) to begin to establish social and cultural ties. Furthermore, the friends group will be invited to report back to the Provost about opportunities for providing practical support to the people of Nikopol.
- 7.3 If the principle of twinning with Nikopol is agreed, the standard due diligence will then be undertaken to assess any potential risk and to provide assurance as to the suitability and the governance arrangements.
- 7.4 If the due diligence process is satisfactory and the Council approves the formal twinning agreement at the Council meeting on 6 March 2024, the Provost intends to invite a small delegation from Nikopol to Perth to formally sign the twinning agreement in the near future, dates and programme to be agreed (see draft twinning agreement, Appendix B).
- 7.5 It is proposed the twinning agreement is signed for an initial period of three years, to then be renewed with both parties agreement.

8 CONCLUSION

- 8.1 This report provides members of the Sub-Committee with an update on proposals to establish a formal twinning relationship with Nikopol in Ukraine for an initial three year period.
- 8.2 The establishment of a formal twinning relationship between Perth and Nikopol will build on the work already done locally in terms of providing support to the people of Ukraine, and will continue to foster and develop goodwill and friendship between both cities, leading to the deepening of mutual understanding between Scotland and Ukraine.

Authors

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Approved

Name	Designation	Date
Lisa Simpson	Strategic Lead – Legal and Governance	29 January 2024
Clare Mailer	Director (Strategy, People and Resources)	

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1. IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Strategic Implications	Yes / None
Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement	None
Corporate Plan	None
Resource Implications	
Financial	Yes
Workforce	No
Asset Management (land, property, IST)	No
Assessments	
Equality Impact Assessment	Yes
Strategic Environmental Assessment	None
Sustainability (community, economic, environmental)	None
Legal and Governance	None
Risk	None
Consultation	
Internal	Yes
External	No
Communication	
Communications Plan	None

1. Strategic Implications

Corporate Plan

1.1 The Council's Corporate Plan 2018 – 2023 lays out five outcome focussed strategic objectives which provide clear strategic direction, inform decisions at a corporate and service level and shape resources allocation. They are as follows:

- (i) Giving every child the best start in life.
- (ii) Developing educated, responsible and informed citizens.
- (iii) Promoting a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy.
- (iv) Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives; and
- (v) Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations.

1.2 This report relates to outcomes (ii) and (iii).

2. Resource Implications

Financial

2.1 Any costs as part of the proposals will be contained within the Civic budget in a similar practice to other twinning arrangements.

Workforce

2.2 There are no direct workforce implications arising from this report.

Asset Management (land, property, IT)

2.3 There are no direct asset management implications arising from this report.

3. Assessments

Equality Impact Assessment

3.1 Under the Equality Act 2010, the Council is required to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between equality groups. Carrying out Equality Impact Assessments for plans and policies allows the Council to demonstrate that it is meeting these duties. The proposals in this report are in line with these requirements and will also be considered as part of the due diligence process.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

3.2 The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 places a duty on the Council to identify and assess the environmental consequences of its proposals.

3.3 The information contained within this report has been considered under the Act. However, no action is required as the Act does not apply to the matters presented in this report.

Sustainability

3.4 Under the provisions of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 the Council has to discharge its duties in a way which contributes to the achievement of sustainable development. In terms of the Climate Change Act, the Council has a general duty to demonstrate its commitment to sustainability and the community, environmental and economic impacts of its actions.

3.5 The information contained within this report has been considered under the Act. However, no action is required as the Act does not apply to the matters presented in this report.

4. Consultation

Internal

4.1 The Provost, Depute Provost and Chief Executive have all been consulted during the preparation of this report.

External

4.2 N/A

5. BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report.

6. APPENDICES

Appendix A – Signed Letter of Intent

Appendix B – Draft twinning agreement



LETTER OF INTENT
to cooperate and develop friendly relations
between the City of Nikopol (Dnipropetrovsk region, Ukraine)
and the City of Perth (Perth and Kinross Council area, Scotland)

14 November 2023

Oleksandr Saiuk
Mayor of Nikopol

Xander McDade
Provost of Perth and Kinross

Iryna Kharchenko
Deputy Mayor

Steven Carr
Councillor

Nikopol (Ukraine) and Perth (Scotland) (hereinafter – Parties)

Guided by the friendly relations between Ukraine and Scotland that are based on common values, and the support of the UK government to Ukraine in the unjustified and unprovoked war of the Russian Federation against Ukraine;

Striving to develop cooperation in various areas of public life and with the involvement of citizens of both communities;

Aiming to create goodwill and friendship between Nikopol and Perth and to promote the deepening of mutual understanding between Ukraine and Scotland;

Agreed on the following:

§ 1.

The Parties will promote the development of friendly relations between municipalities on the basis of mutually beneficial and comprehensive cooperation in the fields in which the residents of the communities are interested, including in particular:

- Local economic development,
- Development of social infrastructure;
- Crisis management.

§ 2.

The Parties will enter into an exchange of experience and look for opportunities to implement projects aimed at closer cooperation.

§ 3.

This Letter of Intent enters into force from the date of its signing by each of the Parties and is valid for 3 years.

§ 4.

The Parties may continue their cooperation by entering into an indefinite partnership through a Twinning Agreement or Sister City Agreement.

§ 5.

English is the common language for the cooperation between Nikopol and Perth. The visiting Party is responsible for arranging interpretation if necessary.

§6.

This Letter of Intent is concluded in 2 copies in English and Ukrainian. In the event of a dispute regarding the interpretation of the provisions of this Letter of Intent, the English text shall prevail.

**Twinning Agreement
between the City of Perth (Scotland) and the City of Nikopol (Ukraine)**

Having, by separate and independent resolutions, agreed to form a twinning link between Perth & Kinross and Nikopol, Ukraine, together formally resolve:-

- To honour the twinning partnership by establishing and maintaining friendly relations with each other;
- To foster and develop mutual understanding and respect between the people of Perth & Kinross and the people of Nikopol, Ukraine;
- To encourage and assist schools, youth and adult organisations, clubs, groups, companies, businesses and all classes of person in Perth & Kinross and Nikopol, Ukraine to communicate and exchange with each other, thereby developing human, cultural and business relations and establishing a firm foundation for future understanding, respect and friendship between the people of Perth & Kinross and Nikopol

This agreement will be for an initial three year period from the date of signing, to be renewed with both parties agreement going forward.

This Agreement is drawn up in English and Ukrainian, both versions have the same legal force.

Signed for and behalf of
Perth and Kinross Council

Signed for and behalf of
City of Nikopol, Ukraine

Xander McDade
Provost of Perth and Kinross

Oleksandr Saiuk
Mayor of Nikopol

Date of signing.....