

Minutes of a meeting of the CITY EXECUTIVE BOARD on Thursday 7 March 2019

www.oxford.gov.uk



Committee members:

Councillor Brown (Chair)

Councillor Turner

Councillor Clarkson

Councillor Hollingsworth

Councillor Upton

Councillor Linda Smith (Deputy Leader)

Councillor Chapman

Councillor Hayes

Councillor Rowley

Officers:

Tim Sadler, Executive Director Sustainable City

Anita Bradley, Monitoring Officer

Ian Brooke, Head of Community Services

Nigel Kennedy, Head of Financial Services

John Mitchell, Committee and Member Services Officer

Apologies:

Apologies were received from Councillor Tidball

149. Declarations of Interest

For the avoidance of doubt, Councillor Turner said he would leave the meeting at the point decisions were made in relation to item 8 of the agenda given his secondment to a Government Department.

150. Addresses and Questions by Members of the Public

None.

151. Councillor Addresses on any item for decision on the Board's agenda

Councillor Tanner addressed the Board in relation to item 8 on the agenda (Approval of new twin cities). He expressed delight that this matter was before the Board and placed on record his thanks for the many people who support twinning and its associated activities and for the preparatory work by officers in relation to the current proposals. The move to appoint a full time twinning officer was most welcome. He commended continuation of the practice of adopting street names to acknowledge the City's twinning arrangements and said that thought should be given to ensuring signage for the new arrangements given that the existing signs had little spare space to accommodate new names.

The Board Member for Culture and City Centre, Councillor Clarkson, was pleased to confirm that a full time twinning officer was to be appointed and that appropriate

signage would be provided. Officers were, necessarily, waiting for the approval of this meeting before proceeding with either. The costs of signage were being sought, in part, via the recommendations but were likely to be contributed to, also, by ward member budgets. She was pleased to confirm that opportunities would be sought to acknowledge the new arrangements by adoption of street names. In the case of Wroclaw however, the pronunciation of which would be challenging for many, something other than a street name would be preferable. Preliminary thought was being given to the central square in the covered market, a suggestion which chimed well with the fact that Wroclaw too has a covered market.

152. Councillor Addresses on Neighbourhood Issues

None.

153. Items raised by Board Members

None.

154. Approval of new twin cities, the budget allocation for twinning projects and criteria for selecting future twin cities

The Head of Community Services had submitted a report to approve the signing of full Twin City agreements with Wroclaw, Ramallah and Padova and agree the criteria for the formation of additional international links.

The Board Member for Culture and City Centre, Councillor Clarkson, introduced the report, which had been the culmination of a great deal of work over the previous year and the slow and steady building of relationships with Wroclaw, Ramallah and Padova over time.

The benefits of twinning arrangements should be for the whole city, not just for cultural links between small groups. The example was given of an opportunity which had been given for a group of young people to travel to Bonn to take part in a football event, many of whom would not otherwise have had the opportunity to travel abroad; the trip had had a profoundly positive effect on them.

As the arrangements for twinning expand so it would be desirable for the Council to focus on providing a strategic lead and for community links to make many of the detailed arrangements. Thought might also be given to hosting events involving more than one linked City at a time.

Councillor Turner left the room at 5.50 when the Board moved to consider the recommendations.

The City Executive Board resolved to:

1. **Approve** the Oxford-Wroclaw Twin City agreement signed in Wroclaw in October 2018;
2. **Endorse** the Oxford Polish Association as the formal volunteer community Link for the Wroclaw twinning relationship;
3. **Approve** the signing of full Twin City agreements with Ramallah and Padova;

4. **Delegate authority** to approve the final wording of the full Twin city agreements to the Head of Community services in consultation with the portfolio holder for Culture and City Centre and the Head of Law and Governance;
5. **Approve** how we use the £23,000 budget allocation for twinning projects; and
6. **Approve** the criteria and process for selecting future international links as set out in paragraph 26 of this report.

155. Minutes

Councillor Turner re-joined the meeting.

The Board resolved to APPROVE the minutes of the meeting held on 12 February 2019 as a true and accurate record.

156. Dates of Future Meetings

Meetings are scheduled for the following dates:

- 13 March
- 10 April
- 22 May
- 12 June
- 10 July
- 07 August

All meetings start at 6pm.

157. Matters Exempt from Publication

No matters were considered in confidential session.

The meeting started at 5.30 pm and ended at 5.50 pm

Chair

Date: Wednesday 13 March 2019

This page is intentionally left blank