



SUBJECT: Structure for twinning relationships

TO: Corporate Services, Strategy, Risk & Accountability Cttee.

FROM: Clerks Department

Report Number: CL-02-20

Wards Affected: not applicable

File Numbers: 130-02

Date to Committee: January 16, 2020

Date to Council: January 27, 2020

Recommendation:

Approve the proposed structure for twinning relationships contained in Appendix A of clerks department report CL-02-20.

PURPOSE:

Vision to Focus Alignment:

- Increase economic prosperity and community responsive city growth
- Building more citizen engagement, community health and culture

Background and Discussion:

The City of Burlington currently has 2 active twin city relationships with Apeldoorn (Netherlands) and Itabashi (Japan). These relationships are sustained through efforts of the Burlington Mundialization Committee and engagement by city staff.

Our engagements with these cities are strong with regular active participation in citizen exchanges and celebrations. The foundations of these alliances are rooted in deep historical ties and cultural attachments.

In July 2019 the following staff directions were approved:

Direct the City Clerk in cooperation with the Burlington Mundialization Committee to report back to Committee of the Whole in Q4 2019 with options for twinning with Courseulles-sur-Mer; and

Direct the City Clerk to provide proposed criteria, for committee's consideration, for future twinning relationships including consideration of a city in a developing country.

The proposed twinning structure outlined in Appendix A provides options for twinning with Couseulles-sur-Mer. The structure allows for a twinning relationship to be established with cities such as Courseuller-sur-Mer at an appropriate level.

The Mundialization Committee is currently working on the second part to the staff direction regarding criteria to be considered for future twinning relationships. The Mundialization Committee has been working overtime this past year with the 30th Anniversary celebrations and official delegations with Itabashi, Japan, and preparing for the 15th Anniversary celebrations and official delegations with Apeldoorn, Netherlands. There has been a subcommittee struck to focus on the proposed criteria to be presented to council in a future report.

Strategy/process

The Burlington Mundialization Committee has surveyed best practices in city relationships to help formulate their recommendation. Findings show that cities with the highest level of engagements with other cities tend to elevate peer relationships where common goals are identified. Tiering relationships according to engagement structure further allows focused growth in both quality of interactions and the number of networks.

Financial Matters:

Financial components related to the recommendations in this report will include the cost of travel for Burlington's official delegation to travel to twin cities. Depending on the cities chosen to twin with, costs will vary. Cost per person for the recent trip to Itabashi Japan was \$3,500. The number of staff and council members that typically travel on an official delegation is 4 and 2 members for the Mundialization Committee.

Source of Funding

Costs associated with travel expenses for the Mayor, members of Council and staff members have been paid for from the Corporate Mundialization initiatives account for travel in the past to twin cities.

Other Resource Impacts

Staffing resources will be impacted with the addition of twin cities regardless of the level. Additional responsibilities are expected to be managed by the Mundialization committee with the support of existing staff within the clerks department. Other staff may be impacted with travel demands to formalize twinning relationships, and any subsequent official delegation visits.

Climate Implications

The travel involved in establishing a twinning relationship at the 'friendship' level would produce greenhouse gas emissions. All travel arrangements would be made with all efforts to reduce, limit or mitigate climate impacts. For example, using electric vehicles when possible, carpool, investigate offset programs, research the method of travel with the least amount of climate impact and choose those methods when possible.

One of the priorities moving forward will be to share best practices, leading edge technologies, and climate change initiatives with twin cities both at the partnership level and friendship level.

Engagement Matters:

The Mundialization chair and vice chair have consulted with the committee as we as the Mayor and members of Council.

Conclusion:

The Mundialization committee is looking to enhance the twin cities program to a structure which contains multiple tiers of alliances with other cities around the world.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Gillies
Committee Clerk
7862

Appendices: (if none delete section)

A. Proposed twinning structure

Report Approval:

All reports are reviewed and/or approved by Department Director, the Chief Financial Officer and the Executive Director of Legal Services & Corporation Council. Final approval is by the City Manager.