

Thame Town Council

Town Twinning

1. Town Twinning Organisations

Town Twinning should be initiated and promoted through independent community based organisations either set up for that purpose or as part of their wider remit. These should be constituted bodies and, in terms of Council support and recognition, should be subject to the same rules as all other external bodies supported by the Council.

2. Financial Support

Any Council funding to support Town Twinning activity will be allocated through the grant budget, following recommendation by the Budget Working Group. Each grant application will be assessed in accordance with the agreed grant criteria and will be considered on its own merit.

3. Help-in-kind

Council staff are already providing support to external organisations on a wide range of activities. Help-in-kind staff support for Town Twinning will be provided at the discretion of the Town Clerk.

4. Civic Hospitality

Although the Council will not have direct involvement in any twinning activities, it may be appropriate from time to time that civic hospitality be offered to visiting parties. This shall always be at the discretion of the Council.

5. Recognition

The Council acknowledges that individuals and organisations in Thame are free to establish social and cultural links with other areas. It cannot be assumed, however, that the Council will provide support to all such activities. The Council reserves the right to investigate proposals for international links and to agree or withhold recognition at its discretion. Support will be determined on best fit with the policies and priorities of the Council. A key factor will be a clearly established benefit to Thame and its residents. Another key factor will be the overall resource position of the Council.

6. Changes to Policy

This Policy will be reviewed from time to time with regard to changing circumstance and any representations received. Should amendments to the Policy be considered, this will be done in consultation with any town twinning associations or equivalent bodies in existence at the time.