

Item 7.2 – Decision- From Policy Committee 30 August 2022

Council:

Notes that, as set out in the report, the Council agreed in 2019 the principle that no new twinning should take place.

Committee therefore agrees to ask the Edinburgh Partnership to consider whether there are any activities or projects which may be mutually beneficial and its members would wish to work with the people of Gaza on.

Committee notes the positive relationships between Edinburgh and other Cities around the world in sharing knowledge and collaborating on issues to support organisations within Edinburgh develop further

establishing if any partner could take a lead role in any relationship and set out what any relationship based on humanitarian support could entail

and agrees the petitioner and the organisation listed on the petition are not involved in any future processes, instead engaging with organisations like trade unions and established inclusive organisations such as the Scottish Parliament's Cross-Party Group on Palestine and the Westminster All-party Parliamentary Group in Westminster

notes the petition and thanks the petitioners for submitting it to the committee.

notes that the agreed 2021 Edinburgh International Framework focused on maintaining existing twinning arrangements rather than forming new twinning partnerships.

recognises the importance, particularly post Brexit, of Edinburgh strengthening its economic, social and cultural ties with other cities internationally, and notes that it is almost 30 years since Edinburgh entered into any new twinning arrangement.

equally recognises the resource implications of servicing existing twinning arrangements and from entering into any new agreements.

therefore agrees that the review of the international framework in this term of the Council should include a) a holistic review of the opportunities, risks and cost implications from Edinburgh twinning with additional cities, b) a strategic analysis of where Edinburgh would benefit most from new twinning arrangements and c) consultation with city partners and stakeholders.

agrees that the question of whether Edinburgh should twin with any new cities should be considered as part of this wider and comprehensive work

notes that LGBT+ rights should be considered in any twinning or similar and that Edinburgh council should use any such position to encourage the advancement of LGBT+ rights.