

To the Members of the Protocol Committee



Annual Report on International Relations – 1st June 2023

Introduction

At the meeting of the Protocol Committee held on 2nd June 2022, a new Procedure for Twinning / Informal Agreements with International Cities was agreed by the members. The Members requested an annual report be brought to the Protocol Committee outlining the progress and activities within these relationships.

Twinning Relationships

Dublin City Council currently has five twinning agreements:

- San Jose California, USA
- City of Liverpool, UK
- City of Barcelona, Spain
- Beijing, The People's Republic of China
- Kyiv, Ukraine

Update on Twinning Relationships since June 2022

San Jose, California

A delegation from Dublin City Council led by Lord Mayor Caroline Conroy visited San Jose in March 2023. Also in the delegation were Cllr Claire Byrne, Cllr Tom Brabazon, Cllr Alison Gilliland, Chief Executive Owen Keegan, Head of International Relations Fanchea Gibson and Gráinne Kelly, Office of the Lord Mayor. Meetings and visits were held with Mayor of San Jose Matt Mahan and members of San Jose City Council, City Manager Jennifer Maguire and her Senior Management Team and with the San Jose City Council Departments of Parks, Recreation & Neighbourhood services, Housing Department, Climate Smart San Jose, Office of Racial Equity, Office of Economic Development and the San Jose Downtown Association. Planning is underway for a return visit by San Jose City Council which may be held in Autumn 2023 due to Local Elections in both cities in mid-2024.



Kyiv, Ukraine

Lord Mayor Caroline Conroy travelled to Brussels on 28th November 2022 and signed the Dublin Kyiv Twinning Agreement with the First Deputy Head of Kyiv City State Mykola Povoroznyk. This gave effect to the Emergency Motion passed at the Dublin City Council meeting on 7th March 2022 to express solidarity of the people of Dublin with the people of Kyiv. Dublin City Council continues to provide support to national government in provision of temporary emergency accommodation. A request was received from Kyiv City Government to support an initiative called *The Day of Kyiv* held on the last Sunday of May. It was not possible to arrange within the timeframe for 2023 but will be included in planning for May 2024.



Informal Agreements

Dublin City Council currently has three active Informal agreements:

- Belfast City
- City of Dublin Ohio, USA
- Seoul, Republic of Korea

Update on Informal Agreements since June 2022

Belfast

Two exchange visits were carried out in November 2022 between the cities of Dublin and Belfast. On 4th November a delegation of Councillors and officials led by Lord Mayor Cllr Christina Black and Chief Executive John Walsh from Belfast City Council travelled to Dublin to undertake a number of site visits and to engage with Dublin City Council regarding Climate Action and the Circular Economy. There were visits to the Dublin Waste to Energy Facility in Poolbeg, the Rediscovery Centre in Ballymun and the Finglas Community Mobility Charging Hub. On 30th November a delegation of Councillors and officials from Dublin City Council led by Lord Mayor Caroline Conroy and Chief Executive Owen Keegan travelled to Belfast and visited the Artemis technologies office and manufacturing site, Categen Net Zero facility and social housing retrofit at Ballymurphy. Briefings were held in relation to A Bolder Vision for Belfast and sustainability initiatives and Belfast Retrofit Hub.

Dublin and Belfast City Councils have ongoing engagement through the Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor.



City of Dublin, Ohio

A renewal of the MOU between Dublin Ireland and the City of Dublin Ohio was approved by the Protocol Committee on 27th October 2022 for a 4 year term.

A delegation from Dublin Ohio led by Mayor Jane Walsh visited Dublin from 15th – 17th March 2023. On 15th March Lord Mayor Caroline Conroy and Mayor Jane Fox signed the MOU at the Mansion House. The delegation visited three cultural institutions in Temple Bar, 14 Henrietta Street and Capel Street and met with staff from Corporate Services and Transformation Unit and International Relations. They attended the St. Patrick's Day parade as guests of Dublin City Council and presented a podcast via their Dublin Ohio website on their visit to Dublin. Areas for co-operation between the two cities were identified and will be followed up. An invitation has been received from Mayor Fox for a return visit to Dublin Ohio.



Seoul, Republic of Korea

The signing of a 4 year Friendship Agreement between the cities of Dublin and Seoul was approved by the Protocol Committee on 23rd February 2023 for a 4 year term.

A delegation from Seoul led by Mayor Oh Se-Hoon visited Dublin from 15th – 17th March 2023 as part of a four city European tour. The Ambassador of Republic of Korea to Ireland also accompanied the delegation. On 16th March Lord Mayor Carline Conroy and Mayor Oh Se-Hoon signed a 4 year Friendship Agreement. A bilateral meeting was held between the two Mayors and Cllr Deirdre Heney, Assistant Chief Executive Richard Shakespeare and Executive Manager Acting Mary MacSweeney and the delegation met with Dublin City Council staff and members of the Docklands Oversight and Consultative Forum for a walking tour of Dublin Docklands.

Ongoing work between the Transportation Departments of the two City Councils is underway under the European Union's International Urban and Regional Cooperation (IURC) Programme, with a focus on shared challenges regarding mobility. An invitation was received and accepted for Dublin City Council to take part in the Seoul Smart City Prize competition, along with an invitation for the next Lord Mayor to attend the 2023 World Cities Summit Mayor's Forum in Seoul in September 2023.



Fanchea Gibson
Administrative Officer

26th May 2023