

To the Members of the Protocol Committee



Quarterly Report on International Relations - October 2023

Requests received for formal city to city relationships with Dublin – Recommendations not to enter into agreements

The following cities have submitted requests for formal city to city relationships with Dublin.

Three cities submitted generic requests and I requested follow up information to outline areas where they felt collaboration would be possible between our two cities. No response has been received and as a year has passed in all three cases, I would now suggest that it be agreed that the requests are no longer live. They are welcome to re-engage in future regarding possible city to city relationships.

City	Brief Outline	Further information requested
Douglas, Isle of Man	Request for twinning. Douglas awarded City Status recently. Historical links between the two cities, Celtic Capitals and strong Viking heritage.	8 th August 2022 Acknowledged 1 st September 2022. No further communication received
Charleston, South Carolina, USA	Request for twinning. Historical links and port cities.	23 rd August 2022, no response received.
Oaxaca, Mexico	Sister City Agreement. Enquiry from Irish citizen who works in Mexico City and the City is a client of his. Requested city of Oaxaca make the request and if required confirm he is to be the contact person	17 th October 2022, no response received.

The following cities have requested city to city relationships with Dublin and submitted further details. However I recommend we do not enter into formal relationships as follows:

City of Elyria, Ohio, USA

A request was received from Mayor Frank Whitfield on 30th September 2022 with regards establishing a sister city relationship with Elyria, Ohio. This request was made on foot of the announcement of direct flights between Dublin and Cleveland Ohio. Further information was requested on 10th October and I advised Mayor Whitfield that Dublin and City of Dublin Ohio were currently in the process of establishing an MOU between the two cities. Mayor Whitfield responded outlining possible areas of collaboration. I would recommend that the resources

of Dublin City Council are focused on the existing relationship with City of Dublin, Ohio, rather than establishing a new relationship with another city in the State of Ohio and therefore would recommend we do not enter into a city to city relationship with City of Elyria Ohio.

Kakata City, Liberia

A request was received for a Sister City relationship on 4th November 2022. The original request stated focused on investment opportunities in Kakata City and I queried this with them. The response received advised Kakata was interested in more than Dublin City investing in them, but were also looking to incorporate both cultures in our cities and have exchange programmes that would allow staff of Kakata City corporation to benefit from capacity building and important new ideas to make their city a great one. Following consideration of the request, and the best uses of the resources of Dublin City Council, I recommend we do not enter into a city to city relationship with Kakata City, Liberia.

Kharkiv, Ukraine

A requested was received on 25th June 2023 for collaboration between the City of Dublin and the City of Kharkiv in Ukraine. The request was made by Mark Mullan of LWF, an international Swiss humanitarian organisation, following a request to him from the Mayor of Kharkiv. The relationship would be to explore how the city of Dublin and Kharkiv could work together and learn from each other to find ways for help to be provided that assists the Kharkiv City Council in a small way to start planning necessary reconstruction of the city.

Dublin City is twinned with the City of Kyiv in Ukraine since 28th November, 2022, following agreement by Dublin City Council on 7th March 2022 at their monthly meeting. I would recommend that the resources of Dublin City are focused on this existing relationship with Kyiv, rather than establishing a new relationships with another city in Ukraine and therefore would recommend we do not enter into a city to city relationship with City of Kharkiv, Ukraine.

Travel by Lord Mayor & Deputy Lord Mayor

ChangeNOW International Summit Paris, May 2023

Lord Mayor Caroline Conroy attended the ChangeNOW summit which brought together nearly 63,000 participants from over 120 countries around the world. In partnership with Covenant of Mayors and major institutions such as UNESCO, ICLEI, the summit includes a Sustainable Cities program, a day dedicated to international Mayors with the objective to:

- Connect mayors with top entrepreneurs and companies – through dedicated workshops and bilateral meetings
- Identify concrete solutions that address the needs and interests of the city - i.e. bio-waste valorisation, last mile delivery, circular economy, green mobility, urban heat islands
- Share best practices and tools at local level and learn from other cities

Lord Mayor Conroy took part in a panel discussion Energetic Efficiency with representatives from other cities and a non-profit organisation who co-ordinate systems of mass retrofits in cities in order to make existing buildings “net-zero energy”. Broad discussions held around optimizing and reducing energy use; renovating homes and buildings to drastically reduce global energy consumption while meetings measures to avoid a rebound effect; highlighting how to ensure accessible renovations, which actors from institutions to innovators to citizens, are leading the way. Lord Mayor Conroy shared examples of Dublin City Council’s Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme, what have been the challenges and the successes.

She also took part in a workshop Transforming Cities with Doughnut Economics led by Kate Raworth. Cities representatives had the opportunity to work with Kate Raworth and experts from Doughnut Economics Action Lab, using new economic models to re-image and re-design policies and practices in local government, with the aim of cities become places where humans and nature thrive in balance.

Eurocities Annual Conference, Brussels June 2023

Lord Mayor Caroline Conroy and Fanchea Gibson, Head of International Relations attended the Eurocities Annual Conference in Brussels on 13th and 14th June. The Eurocities Conference was part of the Brussels Urban Summit held by Brussels Capital Region, Eurocities, Metropolis and the OECD Champion mayors for Inclusive Growth Initiative and brought together 322 cities from 82 countries worldwide, 84 Mayors and 1,409 attendees to exchange ideas and set priorities for the cities of the future to be being more sustainable, liveable and accessible to all. The Summit looked to cities to make the decisions to ensure sustainable, inclusive and well-managed cities for future generations. The major challenges worldwide are concentrated in cities and city governments are uniquely placed to engage, mobilise and coordinate activities of local communities, stakeholders and businesses. Four main items were Urban Leadership, Empowering cities as global partners, connecting to increase positive impact and looking at urban answers to global challenges.

The following talks / exchanges were attended:

- Sustaining Cities, Naturally
- Homelessness – inequalities and risk factors
- Urban Recovery Watch : Cities in the Implementation of the Next Generation EU.
- Time Policies : an opportunity to live better in our cities.
- Eurocities breakfast on City Diplomacy
- Migration and Diversity : Cities lead the way in turning challenges into opportunities
- Urban food policies for sustainable and just future

President Burkhard Jung, Mayor of Leipzig was announced as the new President of Eurocities.



Visit to Seoul Republic of Korea by Deputy Lord Mayor Darcy Lonergan and Brendan Teeling

The Deputy Lord Mayor Darcy Lonergan and the Deputy City Librarian visited the city of Jeongeup-si, South Korea, at the invitation of the organisers of the 2nd World Revolutionary City Solidarity Conference. The visit ran from 10-13 May 2023. Other international guests included the Lord Mayor and the City Librarian of Cork City; the mayor of Alta Gracia, Argentina, and speakers from China, Spain, and Germany.

Jeongeup-si was a key site in the Donghak Peasant Revolution of 1894. Despite its ultimate defeat, the Donghak Revolution is perceived as a great example of Koreans' national struggle against feudalism and foreign interference. Consequently, it inspired the March First Independence Movement in 1919, seeking a restoration of Korean sovereignty against Japanese colonial rule.

The revolution is commemorated each year at the Donghak Farmer Revolution Memorial Festival, held in May at the Donghak Peasant Revolution Memorial Park.

On Tuesday 9 May the representatives of each city had an official meeting with Mayor Lee Hak Soo at Jeongeup-si City Hall. The Mayor welcomed us formally to the city and issued an invitation to Dublin to join the World Revolutionary City Solidarity Forum.

The conference took place on Wednesday 10 May at the Donghak Peasant Revolution Memorial Park. Before the conference there was a formal, solemn, ceremony at the memorial in the Park, when the Mayor and the Chief Executive and the international guests laid flowers in memory of those killed in the revolution.

The Deputy Lord Mayor spoke briefly at the conference and the Deputy City Librarian gave a presentation on the Council's 1916 commemorations programme.

The conference was covered by several local television news programmes.

The 56th Donghak Peasant Revolution Memorial Festival was held at the memorial park on 11 May.

The international delegates attended a number of events and performances at the Festival, which concluded with a march involving 300+ local people and dignitaries. The delegates were invited to take part in the march and did so with varying levels of enthusiasm.

The visit gave an interesting insight into how other countries and cultures commemorate significant events in their history.



**Visit to New York, USA by Lord Mayor Daithí de Róiste
UCLG (United Cities and Local Governments)– 16th and 17th September, 2023**

Lord Mayor Daithí de Róiste, Assistant Chief Executive Tony Flynn and Director of Strategic Development and Research with Dublin City Council Culture Company Tracy Geraghty attended the United Cities Local Government (UCLG) SDG (Sustainable Development Goals) Summit Mobilization Day and official side event on localising the 2030 Agenda in the United Nations, New York where the Lord Mayor was invited to present. Dublin will host the fifth UCLG Culture Summit from 28th November to 1st December 2023 and as part of the visit, the delegation promoted the Summit.

Dublin, the only European capital city presenting during the 2 days of interventions, joined local and regional governments from across the globe speaking on the implementation of the SDGs at local level. The aim was to demonstrate how local governments play a crucial role in driving progress on the Goals.

The Lord Mayor focussed on the role of Culture in the work of the Council. How the provision of culture services through arts, culture, heritage, history, parks, museums, galleries, language, libraries and sports was an essential element of the Council's work with people. He emphasised that the inclusion of a Culture Goal was essential for the delivery of the SDGs. He voiced the need for Culture to be included as the 18th SDG. The importance of a Culture Goal will form a core part of the programme of the UCLG Culture Summit to be hosted in Dublin in partnership with UCLG from 28 November - 1 December 2023.



Strong Cities Network Fourth Global Summit – 19th – 21st September 2023

Lord Mayor Daithí de Róiste and Fanchea Gibson, Head of International Relations, attended the Strong Cities Network Fourth Global Summit which convened more than 100 Mayors and local government practitioners from more than 115 cities in 45 countries around the world to discuss and showcase the unique contributions that mayors and local governments have made and can make in preventing and responding to rising levels of hate and extremism that can lead to violence impacting their communities.

Keynote addresses were given by Mayor Ras. J. Baraka, Newark New Jersey, Mayor Eric Adams, New York City, Mayor Asmaa Rhlalou of Rabat, Morocco and Ylva Johansson, European Commissioner for Home Affairs

Sessions attended included:

- The Hate and Extremism cityscape and why a multi-disciplinary approach to prevention and response is critical
- From Smart Cities to Strong Cities – leveraging technology and data for city-led prevention of Hate and Extremism
- Urban Planning and Prevention – How the physical design of the urban environment can reduce polarisation and strengthen social cohesion
- The Growing Threat of Hate Speech and how it undermines social cohesion, shared values and fuels violence
- The view from the ground – how Hate Speech manifests locally in cities around the world and how Mayors and the cities are responding

- Conversation on global-lead cooperation to prevent Hate Speech – exploring opportunities for UN Strong Cities collaboration
- Mayoral Leadership in the face of rising hate, extremism and polarisation – building and sustaining social cohesion
- Mayoral leadership in prevention – how Mayors can promote public safety and community well-being and safeguard local democracy in an evolving threat environment
- Mayors as communicators in chief – from City messaging in heightened environments to advocating for national-local cooperation. Lord Mayor Daithí de Róiste was a panellist on this panel and spoke of the escalation of protests at Dáil Éireann. The impact of hate speech on sitting politicians considering running for re-election. The impact of social media on hate speech and the use of social media mis-information by mainstream media. Strategic communications and the need to contradict mis-information and not leave a vacuum to be filled by further mis-information. The need for full information advance of major public issues and referenda.



Mayors Adams and Rhalou signed the Mayoral Declaration on behalf of those present. This declaration called on Mayors and local leaders around the world to

- Speak out regularly against all forms of discrimination, disinformation, intolerance, hate, violence and extremism and send clear and consistent public messages of being an inclusive and welcoming city, recognising that public safety and well-being begin with inclusion at local level.
- Strengthen local democratic institutions
- Invest in and build authentic, trusted relationships with and between civil society and communities so these connections can be drawn on as part of a city response when /if hate or extremism emerges
- Promote transparency and pursue open dialogue between city authorities, civil society and communities
- Invest in and support data and evidence based policies

- Promote strong relationships and increased cooperation between local and national governments to ensure that the voices of cities and their communities are reflected in national frameworks.

Good discussions were held with Mike Duffin, US State Department, Sasha Havlicek, Co-Founder and CEO of Institute for Strategic Dialogue and William Peduto, former Mayor of Pittsburgh and Senior Advisor to Strong Cities Network.

Key findings from the Summit:

- Similarities in issues facing all cities
- Social Media and mis-information and the use of it in enhancing hate speech
- Need for more community engagement / collaboration
- The disconnect between national and local governments
- Perception regarding public safety
- Consideration to be given to joining the Strong Cities Network

New York

The delegation attended a reception hosted by the Irish Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Fergal Mythen at which the Táinaiste Mícheál Martin launched the publication *On an Equal Footing with All, Ireland at the League of Nations 1923-1946* by John Gibney, Michael Kennedy and Zoë Reid, the final event of the Decade of Centenaries.



On Wednesday 20th September The Lord Mayor Daithí de Róiste met with members of Coalition 2030 which is an alliance of 70 civil society organisations working together to ensure Ireland keeps its promise to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). www.ireland2030.org



On Tuesday 19th September, whilst at the Strong Cities Network event in Columbia University, Lord Mayor Daithí de Róiste called to Dean Lisa Rosen-Metsch to thank her and her staff who were providing support to the student friends of Ella Mills from Dublin who tragically died in a kayaking accident while studying at Columbia University on an exchange with Trinity College Dublin

Visit to Seoul, Republic of Korea by Lord Mayor Daithí de Róiste

World Cities Summit Mayors Forum

Lord Mayor Daithí de Róiste and Fanchea Gibson, Head of International Relations Dublin City Council travelled to Seoul to attend the World Cities Summit Mayors Forum hosted by the City of Seoul from 23rd to 27th September 2023. <https://www.worldcitysummit.com.sg/>

World Cities Summit Mayors Forum 2023 *Liveable and Sustainable Cities : Forging an Inclusive and Resilient Future*

The annual World Cities Summit Mayors Forum is a by-invitation-only global platform for mayors and city leaders to discuss pressing urban challenges and share the best practices. The hosting of the Summit is rotated between Singapore and the winner of the Lee Kuan Yew World City Prize.

The theme for the 2023 Summit was “*Liveable and Sustainable Cities: Forging an Inclusive and Resilient Future*”. The theme was centred on the importance of ensuring inclusivity in a society, not leaving anyone behind, particularly the underprivileged, even as cities strive towards urban development and economic success. Mayors from 48 different cities as well as representatives from 22 international governmental organizations and private overseas companies, like the United Nations Development Program and Amazon Web Services, were in attendance.

Sessions:

The Lord Mayor attended and spoke at three of the sessions:

- How can Mayors forge inclusive societies and empower communities?

- The Soul of the City: how can Mayors conserve culture and heritage?
- How can Mayors accelerate de-carbonisation and strengthen climate resilience?



He was a keynote speaker on Subtheme 2 “*The Soul of the City: How can Mayors conserve culture and heritage?*” He raised:

- Importance of Culture to a city, it’s the heart of a city and connects the citizens and the city
- Includes language, sport, music, literature, events
- Dublin Festival of History and Historians in Residence programme – free events and talks
- Major events such as St. Patrick’s Day, Dublin Pride, Bloomsday, Tradfest
- Establishment of Dublin City Council Culture Company
- Inclusion of culture in city plans including City Development Plan, Cultural Strategy
- Call for Culture to be an 18th Sustainable Development Goal and Dublin hosting the UCLG Culture Summit in November 2023

At the other sub-themes he raised:

- Inclusiveness and Accessibility in the city – being aware of those with disabilities including neuro diverse and including sensory spaces at public events and in public libraries
- Dublin City Council’s Climate Office and Dublin Climate Action Plan. Looking at off-shore wind power and looking to be carbon-neutral by 2050.

Site Visits:

On Monday Site Visit 1 under the theme *Identify of a City* included a visit to the Seoul Biennale of Architecture and Urbanism. The Seoul Biennale of Architecture and Urbanism was first launched in 2017 to address urban and architecture-related challenges resulting from rapid urban growth in one of the world’s most densely populated cities. Since its inauguration, the theme of urbanism and architecture has been pivotal in reinstating Seoul as a human-centred and eco-friendly city. The site visit was to a site in Seoul’s Songhyeon neighbourhood which has been closed to the public for 110 years and now transformed into a public urban park. From the Seoul Biennale, we moved on to the Seoul Museum of Craft Art with a visit to exhibitions on ceramics, textiles and silk flowers.



Reception

Mayor Oh se-Hoon, Mayor of Seoul, hosted a Welcome Reception and Dinner at which he welcomed all visiting Mayors and was very generous with his time in speaking to them individually. The Lord Mayor was seated at the same table for dinner and a good conversation was held between both Mayors and Mayor Phil Maugher, Christchurch, NZ and Minister Desmond Lee, Minister for National Development in Singapore. Also attending the reception was Deputy Mayor of Kyiv who spoke with the Lord Mayor and expressed his thanks for the assistance given by the people of Dublin and Ireland to the people of Kyiv and Ukraine.

Media

The Lord Mayor carried out media interviews with Seoul City Newspaper and Kyonghang Shinmun and gave a comment to Korea Times.

Seoul Smart City Award

Dublin was nominated in the Human-CentriCity category of the Seoul Smart City Award with the project *Academy of the Near Future*, a project collaboration between Dublin City Council and CONNECT Research Centre.

Dublin won the silver award in the project and the prize was collected by Lord Mayor Daithí de Róiste and Grace Darcy, Connect Research Centre / TCD / Smart Docklands.

Academy of the Near Future is a smart city education programme for students and local authority staff offered by CONNECT and Dublin City Council. It exists to accelerate sustainable and inclusive smart city development through awareness, skills, and confidence-building.

Academy of the Near Future programmes are a combination of interactive workshops, online learning and “hands on” activities with sensor kits that provide learners with an understanding of how technologies such as the Internet of Things and Big Data can help cities deal with traffic congestion, air pollution, extreme weather events, and more. Committed to demystifying smart cities to groups who are underserved in STEM, 50% of our workshops take place in DEIS schools with 50% female participation.



Meeting with Mayor Oh se-Hoon

Lord Mayor Daithí de Róiste, Ambassador Winthorp and Fanchea Gibson met with Mayor Oh se-Hoon of Seoul on 26th September in City Hall. Mayor Oh congratulated Dublin on their Seoul Smart City Prize and discussed the project further. Also discussed was:

- Mayor Oh's visit to Dublin in March 2023
- The Lord Mayor thanked Mayor Oh for his assistance to the Embassy in hosting Irish and Literature weekends in public spaces in Seoul
- Mayor Oh expressed his wish that he looked forward to working together to further cultural exchanges with a specific reference to literature. Lord Mayor indicated that Dublin would be happy to pursue this
- Mayor Oh confirmed that a monument inspired by the Spire, which he was very impressed with on his visit to Dublin, will be placed in Gwanghwamun Plaza with an adaption so it can be used as a flagpole for the Korean flag
- Lord Mayor congratulated Mayor Oh on a successful Summit and praised the organisation of the event and the very useful and thought provoking discussions
- Friendship Agreement – both Mayors expressed their wish to build further on the Friendship Agreement signed in March 2023



Reception hosted by HE Michelle Winthorp

The delegation attended a reception hosted by the Irish Ambassador to the Republic of Korea Michelle Winthorp which was attended by Dubliners living in Seoul. As part of the networking at the reception possible connections between two schools in Seoul & Dublin with an emphasis on the work done by the Seoul Smart City prize winning project and also connections between Seoul Gaels and a GAA Club in Dublin were made.

The delegation is very thankful to HE Michelle Winthorp who in addition to attending the meeting with Mayor Oh and hosting the delegation, was very generous with her time and advice both in the run up to the visit and during our time in Seoul.

Mayors' Declaration for Better Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness, and Response

The Global Parliament of Mayors and the Geneva Cities Hub sent Lord Mayor Daithí de Róiste a request for him to sign the Mayors' Declaration for Better Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness, and Response. Following discussion with the Assistant Chief Executive, the Lord Mayor has decided not to sign the Declaration. This type of Declaration often leads to requirements placed on us and a membership fee down the line which we cannot plan for at the moment.

Fanchea Gibson
Senior Executive Officer

17th October 2023