Item 3

7th December 2023

Glasgow City Council

Council

Report by Business Manager and City Convener for Open Government

Contact: Mairi Millar Ext: 75509

TWINNING PROPOSAL WITH MYKOLAIV, UKRAINE

Purpose of Report:

To update Council on discussions with the city of Mykolaiv, Ukraine around a proposed twinning agreement between our cities

Recommendations:

Council is asked to:-

- Agree that Mykolaiv and Glasgow become Twin Cities; and
- Agree to progress signing the attached Memorandum of Understanding and invite representatives of Mykolaiv to attend a signing ceremony in Glasgow.

Ward No(s): Citywide: ✓

Local member(s) advised: Yes ☐ No ☐ consulted: Yes ☐ No ☐

1. Background

1.1. Members will be aware of the continued support Glasgow has offered Ukraine since the Russian invasion on 24th February 2022.

1.2. Council recalls that on 24th February, the City Administration Committee agreed to suspend our twinning relationship with Rostov-On-Don and to progress options for a twinning relationship with a Ukrainian city.

1.3. There has been continued engagement with the Ukrainian Community since the invasion and Council has continued to state its support for the people of Ukraine.

1.4. The Leader of the Council, alongside officers from the Lord Provost's office, met with the Consul General for Ukraine in the UK - Mr Andrii Kuslii - and the Association of Ukrainians in Great Britain to seek their views on what city they would recommend as being the best fit for Glasgow.

1.5. At that discussion, Mykolaiv was identified as a good fit for Glasgow because of our shared history as great shipbuilding cities.

1.6. Following that meeting, the Leader and Lord Provost wrote to the Mayor of Mykolaiv, Oleksandr Syenkevych, to explore the potential of a twinning partnership with Glasgow.

1.7. In this letter they expressed friendship and solidary with the people of Mykolaiv and outlined the discussions that had taken place with Ukrainians in the UK and Glasgow. A copy of that letter is included at Appendix 1.

1.8. A positive response was received from the Mayor of Mykolaiv City Council who noted the importance of international friendship, outlined some of their other twin cities, and outlined that his city would be pleased to engage in discussions with Glasgow about a formal twinning arrangement. A copy of that letter is included at Appendix 2.

1.9. The Mayor of Mykolaiv also provided a suggested draft Memorandum of Understanding which outlines some potential areas of co-operation between both cities as: citizenship and humanity, economic development, trade, and industry including construction, green transition including urban management and public utilities, environment and sustainability, science, technology, and education, culture, health, and sports, youth policy. A copy of that draft is included at Appendix 3.

2 Policy and Resource Implications

Resource Implications:

Financial:	N/A
Legal:	N/A
Personnel:	N/A
Procurement:	N/A

Council Strategic Plan: Specify which theme(s) and outcome(s) the proposal supports

Equality Impacts:

EQIA carried out:	No
Outcome:	N/A

Sustainability Impacts:

Environmental:	N/A
Social:	N/A
Economic:	N/A

3 Recommendations

Council is asked to:

- Agree that Mykolaiv and Glasgow become Twin Cities; and
- Agree to progress signing the attached Memorandum of Understanding and invite representatives of Mykolaiv to attend a signing ceremony in Glasgow

4 Appendices

Appendix 1 – Letter from Leader of the Council and Lord Provost.
Appendix 2 – Response from Oleksandr Syenkevych, Mayor of Mykolaiv
Appendix 3 – Draft Memorandum of Understanding.