

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

Your request for information has now been considered and the Council's response to your questions is shown below.

You asked:

What is the councils current policy on twinning that is currently Leicester is twinned with Rajkot can it be twinned with another city in India.

ANSWER

The Council's policy regarding formal twinning arrangements is that new applications are held over and reviewed once per year by the International Development Working Party. Whenever we receive a new request for twinning, we seek the following information:

1. Who is proposing the link in the proposed city/town?
2. Is there a direct contact in the proposed city/town? Please provide a name and contact details
3. Background information on the proposed city/town:
 - Location/population/history
 - Economy/industry
 - What other cities/towns are linked with this city/town?
 - Does it have a community-led twinning organisation to support and resource twinning activity?
4. What would be the aim/objective of the link?
5. What sort of activity would be promoted? Please explain why a permanent, formal twinning arrangement is appropriate rather than a one-off project, or series of time-limited, technical projects?
6. Does the proposed city/town have any community links in Leicester?
7. Outcomes - what would this link achieve for the local authority and the community of the applicant town/city? What would this link achieve for Leicester City Council and the community in Leicester?
8. Do you have any anticipated costs in relation to the proposed activities?
9. How would the link be funded?
10. How would the link be supported and resourced?

Once received, this information is reviewed by the International Development Working Party. The Working Party determines whether we should pursue a

new link and if so on what basis i.e. good practice exchange or Memorandum of Understanding with a view to a formal twinning in the future. Generally speaking, twinning is a long process based on relationships, which develop over time. Whilst the International Development Working Party can recommend twinning, it would also need to be endorsed by Cabinet and approved by full Council.

Leicester is currently twinned with Strasbourg (France), Krefeld (Germany), Haskovo (Bulgaria), Rajkot (India), Masaya (Nicaragua) and Chongqing (China). If you would like to learn more about Leicester's twinning links, go to www.leicester.gov.uk/twinning/

The legislation allows you to use the information supplied for your own personal use. Please be aware that any commercial or other use, for example publication, sale, or redistribution may be a breach of copyright under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 as amended unless you obtain the copyright holder's prior permission.

Not all the information that is supplied which is covered by copyright will be the Council's copyright, for example it may be the copyright of a government department or another Council. You should seek either the Council's consent or their consent as appropriate. The Council is willing to advise you of any such potential issues on request. In order to make a request to re-use the information please contact the Information Governance Manager using the details below.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request please write to:

Information Governance Manager
Information and Support
Leicester City Council
FREEPOST (LE985/33)
New Walk Centre
LEICESTER LE1 6ZG
e-mail: FOIA@leicester.gov.uk

Your request for internal review should be submitted to the above address within 40 (forty) working days of receipt by you of this response. Any such request received after this time will only be considered at the Council's absolute discretion.

You can also complain to the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow SK9 5AF
Telephone: 01625 545 700
www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk

Please be aware that the Information Commissioner does not normally consider appeals or complaints until the internal appeals and complaints processes of the public authority which is answering the request have been exhausted. You are therefore advised to complain or appeal to the Information Governance Manager before contacting the Commissioner.