

Motions to Council Request Form

Proposer	Cllr Kieran Persand
Seconder	Cllr Julie Morris
Motion Set out motion in full	<p>This Council notes that:</p> <p>The town of Bucha, in Kyiv Oblast, Ukraine, has become internationally recognised for the atrocities committed against its civilian population in 2022, but is today a symbol of resilience, democratic values, and European aspiration.</p> <p>Epsom and Ewell is already home to a vibrant network of individuals and organisations actively supporting Ukraine, including the charity Surrey Stands With Ukraine, which has sent several million pounds worth of humanitarian aid to Ukraine since 2022.</p> <p>The Borough has welcomed refugees from Ukraine and hosted cultural, musical, and educational activities strengthening ties between our communities, including the current Festival of Friendship – Ukraine.</p> <p>The Mayor of Bucha, Anatolii Fedoruk — in office since 1998 — has personally expressed his strong wish that Epsom become Bucha’s first twin town in the UK, emphasising that the twinning is not about seeking aid, but about building future cultural, business, educational and civic links.</p> <p>Bucha has signed twinning agreements with several European and US cities but has no UK twin. Bucha and Epsom are similar in size and suburban character, each situated approximately 25km from their national capitals.</p> <p>A dedicated Bucha-Epsom Association (BEA) has been established in the Borough, with a constitution and committee, to undertake all organisational and administrative responsibilities for any future twinning, similar to the existing Epsom and Chantilly Town Twinning Association.</p> <p>This Council further notes that:</p> <p>There is no statutory framework for town twinning in the UK. Twinning arrangements are civic in nature and have historically been endorsed in principle by</p>

	<p>councils and administered in practice by local associations.</p> <p>While Ukraine's law requires twinning charters to be signed by municipal authorities, UK practice allows such documents to be signed by a council Chief Executive with delegated authority. Any physical exchange visits to Ukraine during wartime would not be expected. Interaction would take place online or through visits to Epsom. Security and prudence will always be prioritised.</p> <p>Accordingly, this Council resolves to:</p> <p>Endorse in principle the establishment of a twinning arrangement between the Borough of Epsom & Ewell and the City of Bucha, Ukraine.</p> <p>Recognise the Bucha-Epsom Association (BEA) as the lead organisation in the Borough responsible for twinning activities with Bucha.</p> <p>Authorise the Chief Executive, at an appropriate time, to approve and sign on behalf of the Council a standard twinning charter provided under Ukrainian law, as is consistent with UK civic practice.</p> <p>Encourage civic, cultural, educational, and community groups within the Borough to engage with the Bucha-Epsom Association and consider participation in twinning initiatives.</p>
Relevant Committee(s) Motion would relate to	Strategy and Resources Committee
Name of the Chairman of such Committee	Councillor Neil Dallen