



Item 9.3(a)

Full Council – 18 November 2024

Amendment submitted by the Conservative Group to the 1st Labour Group Motion

Proposed amendment – To add the wording underlined in red and delete the wording indicated:

Brent ~~Town~~ Twinning with Nablus

This Council notes:

- That Brent currently has a single twinning relationship, that with South Dublin, established in 1997, at a time when Brent had the largest Irish-born population in mainland Britain.
- That Brent currently has ~~the second highest Arab diaspora in England and Wales, within which there is a significant number of residents of Palestinian heritage.~~ a rich and diverse, multi-cultured community including Christians, Catholics, Jews, Muslims, Hindus, Jains and Sikhs amongst others.
- That like Brent, Nablus in Palestine ~~— as one of the oldest cities in the world —~~ Israel has a long and rich history of culture, diversity and dynamism, ranging from historical architecture, a lively economy and a youthful population.
- That Brent has a long history of internationalism, including conferring on Nelson Mandela the Freedom of the Borough.
- That a growing number of community and charitable organisations, ~~including Brent Trades Union Council, Brent NEU and Brent Friends of Palestine have developed productive relations with Palestinian organisations and diaspora, further strengthening bonds to the city of Nablus.~~ have developed ties and relationships with Israel which include Jews, Arabs, Bedouins and Christians alike.
- That through the joint work of Brent Trades Union Council, Brent NEU and of Brent and Harrow PSC, CADFA and the Palestinian Forum in Britain, opportunities have been provided to young Palestinians to meet Brent young people, Councillors and MPs, and share and develop a bond over their experiences in education, sports and culture. Opportunities for visits to Palestine by young Brent residents are being planned. That this Council should provide

an opportunity for all the young people in Brent to visit and work with Israeli's and Arabs including Palestinians.

- That Ramla could be considered as a suitable town in Israel to twin with. Ramla is between Tel-Aviv And Jerusalem and was the crossroads of the ancient route between Jaffa and Jerusalem and between Damascus and Cairo.
- ~~That the establishment of the “Brent-Nablus Twinning Project” organisation provides an opportunity for Brent to explore the potential of a formal twinning arrangement with Nablus through community engagement.~~
- That community organisations and official representatives in Nablus Israeli towns and cities would welcome ~~have shown~~ a desire to develop a more formal arrangement of partnership with Brent. ~~and have communicated this desire with their partners in Brent, leading to this proposal. (~~

This Council believes:

- Twinning enhances bonds and improves relations between communities, creating friendships through what we have in common, as well as learning from other cultures, traditions and experiences.
- Twinning allows avenues for growth through togetherness, improving understanding and ability to tackle issues through collaboration, knowledge and skill shares.
- A successful twinning relationship would promote initiatives like educational collaborations, sports programmes, and heritage preservation workshops, creating long-term connections between residents and institutions and engages with local communities, cultural organisations, and leaders in both twinned regions to support the establishment of the partnership.

This Council resolves to:

- Consider a formal twinning agreement between Brent and a city or town in Israel which has a mixture of Arab and Jewish citizens ~~the city of Nablus, which sits under the governance of the Palestinian National Authority,~~ and receive a report considering the proposal at a future council meeting.
- Explore immediate steps to foster connections, such as cultural exchange programmes, student and school collaborations, and shared community projects, to create a foundation for future growth.
- ~~Engage with the “Brent-Nablus Twinning Project” organisation to develop a framework for the potential twinning, whilst engaging with local communities, cultural organisations and leaders in both Brent and Nablus to support the establishment of this partnership.~~

- Engage with the diverse communities living in Brent, so that everyone can have a say in where we should consider twinning. Any process must be with cross party engagement and support to establish a partnership with suggested towns and cities.
- That Brent should establish a “Brent-Ramla Twinning Project” to provide an opportunity for Brent to explore the potential of a formal twinning arrangement with Ramla through community engagement.

Councillor Michael Maurice
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