

City of Worcester Twinning Association
Statement on Twinning with Gaza

As is well known to the world, the City of Worcester Twinning Association received an invitation from Worcester City Council "to consider a twinning arrangement with Gaza City".

The Executive Committee appreciates the understandable desire to express sympathy with the sufferings of the people, and especially the children, of Gaza City but does not believe that a twinning arrangement is the most appropriate or practical means of meeting their humanitarian needs.

The Association is a voluntary, self-funded body and has neither the resources nor the competences to embark on the complex arrangements that would be needed to set up a meaningful relationship with Gaza City, even if it were to be established that the people of Gaza City wished it and were able to reciprocate in most of the activities required to constitute an active twinning link.

Without such prospects for the foreseeable future, we consider that this proposal does not meet the criteria for a genuinely successful twinning at the present time.

The decision whether or not to proceed with an official twinning must, of course, rest with the Council but we regret our inability, in this instance, to take on such a responsibility on its behalf in addition to those links for which we currently accept full organisational responsibility.

This, of course, does not prevent the Council from organising and funding a formal link with Gaza City if both potential partners want to give effect to the Council's apparent wish for this.