

ABINGDON TOWN COUNCIL

Report to	Community Committee
Meeting date	18 February 2026
Report author	Lizzie Martin
Agenda item	12

Twinning Anniversary Report

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 Inform Committee of current plans for the 70th Anniversary Twinning with Argentan and approve proposed budget.

2. Summary

- 2.1 Abingdon, UK, has been twinned with Argentan in Normandy, France, since 1956, making it the town's first and oldest international partnership and a symbol of post-war reconciliation and friendship. Managed by the Abingdon and District Twin Towns Society, the relationship encourages ongoing cultural exchange.
- Argentan, a small town in southern Normandy with a character like Abingdon, continues to share close community ties, with the partnership forming part of a wider network of twinning links. The Town Council has always supported the Twin Towns Society and the relationships that have been forged through Twinning. It is in this context that Abingdon Town Council will be working with the Twin Towns Society to mark this occasion.

3. Action required

- 3.1 The Committee are required to approve proposed plans and budget.

4. Link to strategic plan and objectives

- 4.1 KO2 - To develop a resilient, sustainable town which will provide a home for residents now and in the future

KO4 - To work with community partners to support those who are vulnerable and in need and to create opportunities to increase social inclusivity.

5. **Background**

5.1 It was requested in the meeting on 19th November 2025 that the project manager for business and community engagement prepared a report for the committee to review the budget and actions for the 70th anniversary twinning with Argentan.

6. **Key information and options**

6.1 The below table of proposed events is the outcome of the meeting with the Twin Town Society on the 8th December 2025. Proposed weekend for the event would be 21st – 24th August 2026.

Activity	ATC responsibility	ADTTS responsibility
Hotel accommodations & Breakfast	ATC 4 guests	Other guests
Friday night dinner		ADTTS
Flower display	ATC	
Ceremony content	ATC to ask archivist for information reference original document ATC to print service sheets if required.	ADTTS to provide running order of ceremony, content for service sheet (if required) and info on those speaking at the service
Ceremony refreshments	ATC collect RSVPs & dietary regulations & provide afternoon tea	
Ceremony venue	ATC	
Morris Men	ATC to arrange	
Walks	ATC – Abingdon	ADTTS - Oxford
Evening Meal	ATC to fund 4 x guests	ADTTS to arrange & book (RSVPs)
Hastings trip	ATC to fund 4 x guests	ADTTS to arrange & book
Gifts for Mayor & Clerk/Cllr	ATC	

Other considerations: -

Exhibition ADTTS to provide content, ATC to provide venue & display boards

Argentan have informed us that there will be an additional 40 residents planning on visiting.

7. **Climate change/green implications**

7.1 Argentan representatives will be organising their own travel to Abingdon-on-Thames. Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council can suggest green options but

cannot stipulate how the representatives travel for the event.

8. **Financial/budget implications**

8.1

Activity	Budget
B&B 3 x nights for 2 couples	£750.00
Friday evening - BBQ - Richard Smart	£150.00
Ceremony Entertainment	£500.00
Ceremony Mayor & Cllrs Food/Drink afternoon tea	£1000.00
Afternoon Entertainment i.e. walks/Morris Men	£300.00
Evening meal 4x VIP guests	£250.00
Trip to Hastings Sunday ATC 4x VIP guests	£300.00
Gift to Mayor/Cllr of Argentan	£300.00

Total - £3550.00

9. **HR implications**

9.1 Project Manager for Business and Community Engagement with Mayor's Administrator to manage operations.