

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN
THE CITY OF BORDEAUX
AND
THE CITY OF BRISTOL

SINCE 1947,
75 YEARS OF FRIENDSHIP

Reaffirming our friendship after 75 years

The relationship between the City of Bordeaux in France and the City of Bristol in England began in 1947 in the aftermath of the Second World War, based on friendship, peace and in support of direct international links between citizens of our two cities. This union is one of the oldest twin city relationships in Europe, and, to this day, strong and friendly relations between our two cities exist.

Over the past 75 years, we have developed a tradition of exchange that spans many areas including youth and citizen exchange, sustainable development, education, culture, sport, government, science, trade and economy. This has deepened the friendship and understanding between the two cities.

We, as city Mayors, are both firmly convinced that continuing exchange between our cities, and further developing new areas for collaboration, will prove to be increasingly fruitful for the future of both cities. We shall do this in a spirit of European solidarity, notably considering the shared challenges regarding social inclusion and climate emergency.

This Memorandum of Understanding intends to show how much the relationship between our cities has grown, to outline areas where we aim to continue our collaboration, and to put forward opportunities that exist for future partnerships. We strive to preserve and develop the varied links between Bordeaux and Bristol into the future.

Continuing successful collaboration

1. Continue to pursue civic exchange programmes run in partnership with local organisations in both cities.
2. Cooperate to promote youth and student exchanges, teaching assistant programmes, and reciprocal student programmes between Bordeaux and Bristol.
3. Share business and trade links on key sectors important to both cities and regions, notably through cooperation between our respective cities' Chambers of Commerce and Industry.
4. Collaborate on cultural exchanges, to grow our thriving cultural sectors and support young people's involvement in the cultural sector.
5. Pursue multilateral collaboration through memberships of European and International organisations.

In parallel, we endeavour to focus our cooperation in the following new areas:

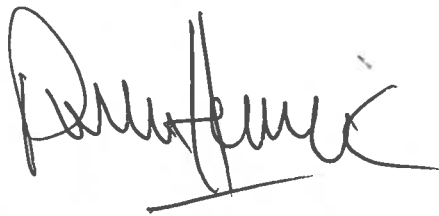
Exploring new opportunities

1. Maximise the impact of our common participation in the Horizon Europe Climate Neutral and Smart Cities Mission to drive a net zero future in both cities.
2. Share experiences on social inclusion policies, to promote peace and our roles as pluralistic cities of welcome?
3. Reinforce business and trade links on key sectors important to both cities and regions:
 - a. Urban agriculture especially local and sustainable food sourcing.

- b. Green technology and renewable energy sectors.
 - c. The social and solidarity economy.
 - d. Port and sea transportation.
 - e. Tourism.
 - f. Young entrepreneurs.
 - g. Digital, creative arts and innovation sectors.
4. Address the complex subject of our cities' histories, including the legacy of their role in the slave trade, through the continued exchange of knowledge, learning and action on memorialisation, contested histories, identity and belonging.
 5. Facilitate research and teaching collaboration between our education sectors on areas of joint expertise especially in health sciences (notably Public Health, Neuroscience); and promote skills and knowledge exchange between our higher education institutions in subject areas of mutual interest.
 6. Share learning on implementing the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and advocate for support to cities in their delivery through continuous dialogue between local and national governments.
 7. Explore the development of an exchange programme for municipal employees, as well as a programme that drives intergenerational engagement in our twin city relationship.

This memorandum is a testament to the friendship that binds our two cities. We reiterate and renew our promise to collaborate on the many areas mentioned above, and take new opportunities to work together as they come up. In light of the numerous conflicts around the world, and in the spirit of the founding agreement of our city twinning, we will contribute to achieving a deepening of respect, trust and mutual understanding between our two cities and to promoting peace and tolerance in Europe and the world.

Signed in Bordeaux, on 21 September 2023.



Pierre Hurmic
Mayor of Bordeaux



Marvin Rees
Mayor of Bristol