

I am writing to request information on Wigan Council's relationship with its twin towns.

- 1) Please provide a list of the current twin towns. If ties have been severed with any towns within the last ten years please state this.

Wigan has one Twin Town of Angers in France

- 2) Specifically, please can I have a list of international visits undertaken to the twin towns in financial years 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23 to date.

Please include this data in a spreadsheet with the following columns: Date, Destination, Purpose, Cost, Notes (optional).

See attached spreadsheet

- 3) Additionally, please can you provide details of the borough's current program(s)/scheme(s), if any, on offer to members of the public, school pupils, etc for getting involved with the twin towns.

In a spreadsheet, for each program/scheme, if any, please provide the number of people who used it and the total cost to the council.

See attached spreadsheet

- 4) Please can you also provide details of how members of the public can get involved with the twin towns if they are interested.

See council web page [About the twinning \(wigan.gov.uk\)](http://wigan.gov.uk/about-the-twinning) and details included below

Follow [@Amb_AngersWigan](https://twitter.com/Amb_AngersWigan) on Twitter or email angers@wigan.gov.uk if you are interested in the following opportunities:

- **Find a work placement** - we can help arrange work placements in Angers by contacting companies. The conditions of Brexit apply.
- **Find a job** – e.g. Samuel Albert, a chef in a high standing restaurant in Angers, looked for a waiter from Wigan to join his team.
- **Become a host family** - experience a true cultural exchange by welcoming an international student into your home, by welcoming Angevins at the occasion of the Twinning Anniversary.
- **Become a pen-pal** - a great way to improve your French and make friends.
- Participate in the **Events Programme** events offered by the Twinning Office (Ambassador and Angers Twinning Association) - eg. Francophonie Week events
- **Join the Angers Twinning Association**, and becoming a member of the association

Local business

The twinning is a great opportunity for local business to develop economic partnerships with Angers.

- **Hire a French student** - we can help you arrange work experience placements for French students
- **Import local products from Angers** - we can help you select and import local products from Angers.

Culture

The twinning is now part of the culture team at Wigan Council, so if you are an artist or someone interested in cultural events. This may be because you:

- Would like to feature Angers in your work
- Have an exhibition of your work in Angers
- Would like to get involved in a cultural exchange with Angers e.g. music bands, art exhibition etc.

Education

School partnerships can be formed to work on a number of initiatives, allowing children on both sides of the channel to learn more about the world. These include:

- Presentations and workshops on Angers, the twinning, French culture and French events or holidays
- Foreign student exchange
- Pen pal projects / Christmas cards exchange
- Video or culture box exchanges
- French events

Community groups and clubs

We run twinning projects with a diverse range of groups, involving sport, music, traditional dance, literature and much more.

- Francophonie Week programme
- Presentations and workshops
- Work practice exchange/discussions
- Be linked with a similar organisation in Angers and work on a common project together.