



Andrew Boff AM
Chair of the London Assembly

Councillor Andreas Kirsch
Council Leader
Royal Borough of Kingston Upon Thames

(Sent by email)

28 October 2026

Dear Councillor Kirsch,

Supporting Ukrainian local government through Cities4Cities

I am writing as Chair of the London Assembly with the support of all political group leaders to encourage your borough to register its interest with Cities4Cities, the international initiative supporting partnerships between local authorities and communities in Ukraine.

Since Russia's full-scale invasion, Ukrainian local authorities have been required to continue delivering for their residents in the most extraordinary circumstances. Councils and their staff are maintaining essential services, supporting displaced people, protecting communities and infrastructure, and sustaining local democratic government — in many cases while their towns and cities remain under direct attack.

In these circumstances, expressions of solidarity from fellow local authorities elsewhere in Europe matter enormously.

Cities4Cities provides a practical way for London boroughs to make that solidarity visible and, where appropriate, to turn it into a lasting relationship with a Ukrainian municipality. The initiative helps local authorities identify potential partners, establish initial contacts and explore areas of cooperation. This can range from relatively simple exchanges of experience and professional support to links between schools, community organisations and businesses, humanitarian assistance, or a more formal long-term municipal partnership.

Importantly, expressing an interest through Cities4Cities does not oblige a borough immediately to enter into a formal twinning arrangement or incur significant expenditure. Cooperation can begin modestly and develop according to the capacity and priorities of both local authorities.

For our colleagues in Ukrainian local government, however, the knowledge that municipalities elsewhere in Europe are standing alongside them has a significance beyond the practical help that may follow. At a time of war, these relationships are a reminder that Ukrainian towns and cities are part of a wider European community of local democracy, and that they are not facing their challenges alone.

London has demonstrated remarkable solidarity with Ukraine since 2022. I hope that our boroughs can build upon that record by establishing direct links between London's local government and the Ukrainian municipalities whose elected representatives and public servants are working under such difficult conditions.

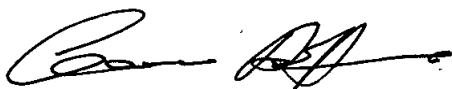
I would therefore encourage your borough to visit Cities4Cities and register its interest in connecting with a Ukrainian municipality:

<https://cities4cities.eu/> or email Martina Suprun on marta.suprun@cities4cities.eu who will be able to deal with your enquiries.

Even where a borough is not presently in a position to develop an extensive programme of cooperation, making that first contact is itself a valuable gesture of friendship and solidarity.

I very much hope that London's boroughs will respond positively.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Boff', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Andrew Boff AM
Chair of the London Assembly