



REPORT TO: CORPORATE COMMITTEE ON 12 OCTOBER 2021

SUBJECT: PLATINUM JUBILEE CIVIC HONOURS COMPETITION: CITY STATUS BID

BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. REASON FOR REPORT

1.1 To invited the Committee to agree to make an application for a grant of city status for Elgin.

1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section III(B)(6) of the Council's Scheme of Administration relating to any new policy matter which does not fall within the terms of reference of any other Committee

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 To agree to make an application for a grant of city status for Elgin.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 The Cabinet Office has announced a civic honours competition that will award city status to towns, and Lord Mayor or Lord Provost status to existing cities, to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022.

3.2 The competition will also be open to applications from Crown Dependencies and Overseas Territories, such as Jersey, Guernsey and Gibraltar. Culture Secretary Oliver Dowden commented: "As we look forward to a year of celebration, growth and renewal in 2022, this prestigious competition will inspire civic pride in communities right across the UK. It's a great opportunity for towns and cities in every corner of the country to showcase their heritage and tell us more about the people and places that make their local area so unique - and a fitting tribute to Her Majesty's reign in her Platinum Jubilee year." Constitution minister Chloe Smith said the competition "is an opportunity to promote your hometown and win an honour for it that will last for all time", and encouraged entries "from local authorities in every part of the UK, from vibrant towns and cities with distinct identities, history, and sense of community."

3.3 The closing date is Wednesday 8 December 2021.

- 3.4 Elgin has emerged as a worthy application in terms of the criteria and profile envisaged in the application form.

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Corporate Plan and 10 Year Plan (Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP))

No direct implications.

(b) Policy and Legal

Any local authority in any part of the United Kingdom, a Crown Dependency or an Overseas Territory, which considers that its area deserves to be granted the rare honour of city status on this very special occasion is welcome to enter the competition by the closing date of 8 December 2021.

Applications may only be made by an elected local authority for its entire area or a distinct area within its boundary.

Although there are no specific criteria for city status or Lord Mayor or Provost status, the Government is asking local authorities to submit their entries in a standard size and format, as detailed in the application form. This is intended to help local authorities minimise the expense of entering the competitions and to provide the Government with a fair basis for comparison and assessment of the entries received.

Local authorities are strongly advised not to exceed the limits of the standard size and format as described in application form.

The decisions made by Her Majesty, on Ministerial advice, will be final. Local authorities may be assured that each entry will be considered 'in the round', on the merits of its contents rather than on the standard of presentation. Each local authority will be sent brief comments on its entry when the results of the competitions are announced in 2022. These brief comments on entries will not provide specific reasons on why an application is successful or unsuccessful.

Local authorities should not incur any expenditure on lobbyists for the purposes of influencing the competition.

(c) Financial implications

It is anticipated any funding implications will be met from Elgin Common Good Fund.

(d) Risk Implications

None directly.

(e) Staffing Implications

Existing staff would be utilised should there be a need for information held by the council, for example archives, to support the preparation of a submission. Beyond the provision of information where this is readily available, it is not anticipated that further demands will be placed on council staff. It is understood Elgin Community Council will lead on the

preparation supported by other community groups and knowledgeable individuals in the fields highlighted in the application form, such as culture, heritage and history.

The Community Council will also take the lead in the preparation of the required profile and the taking of supporting photographs of permanent features of Elgin.

(f) Property

None.

(g) Equalities/Socio Economic Impact

None.

(h) Consultations

Group Leaders, Elgin Community Council and CMT

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 The Council is invited to approve the recommendation.

Author of Report:	Roddy Burns, Chief Executive
Background Papers:	
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