

The Highland Council

City of Inverness Area Committee – 5th March 2015

Agenda Item	17
Report No	CIA/15/15

Application to European Green Leaf Award

Report by Head of Policy and Reform

Summary

At the end of March, 2015, the Council will submit an application to the European Green Leaf Award for Inverness, in collaboration with internal and external partners. This application will highlight the commitment and progress Inverness has made towards becoming a sustainable city. This paper provides an overview of the application, as well as the topics covered under the six sections of the application.

1. Background

1.1 The European Green Leaf is a new initiative for cities with populations of between 50,000 and 100,000. It recognises commitment to better environmental outcomes, with particular focus on efforts that generate “green” growth and new jobs. The objectives of the award are:

1. To recognise cities that demonstrate a good environmental record and commitment to generating green growth;
2. To encourage cities to actively develop citizens' environmental awareness and involvement;
3. To identify cities able to act as a 'green ambassador' and to encourage other cities to progress towards a better sustainability outcomes.

The European Green Leaf will be awarded on an annual basis by the European Commission.

1.2 Applying for the European Green Leaf award publically recognises the commitment and progress Inverness has made to improve the environmental outcomes of the city. A successful application would generate interest in Inverness both nationally and internationally through recognition of the city's environmental credentials and the commitment of organisations and communities to tackle climate change. The deadline for applications is 30th March 2015.

2. Application

2.1 The application will provide an opportunity to highlight the range of actions being undertaken in the city across six key areas, which are:

- Climate change & energy performance;
- Mobility;
- Biodiversity & land use;
- Quality of air & acoustic environment;
- Waste & green economy; and

- Water management

In each category there are three sections which require description of actions in respect of:

- Plan, Policy & Programme;
- Implementation;
- Citizen Engagement & Public Awareness;

2.3 The application form is being completed by the Climate Change team with input from relevant services and external partners. Members are invited to suggest potential projects or activities to highlight as part of the application, and should bring these to the attention of the Climate Change team.

3. Implications

3.1 **Resources:** There are no resource implications in submitting the application. However, if the application is successful it would help generate publicity and potential funding for sustainability projects in Inverness.

3.2 **Climate Change/Carbon CLEVER Implications:** Being successful in this application would help to improve the Council's and Inverness's reputation as a leader on sustainability issues.

3.3 There are no legal, rural, equalities, or Gaelic implications arising from this report.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- I. Note that the Council is submitting an application for Inverness to be considered for the new European Green Leaf award;
- II. Note that a draft of the application will be circulated by email to members for any comments prior to the deadline of 30th March 2015.

Designation: Head of Policy and Reform

Date: 23/02/15

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