

Agenda Item	12
Report No	CIA/41/21

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Committee: City of Inverness Area Committee

Date: 18th November 2021

Report Title: HRH The Queen's Platinum Jubilee – Lord Provostship Competition

Report By: Executive Chief Officer Communities and Place and Executive Chief Officer Performance and Governance

1. Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 As part of her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations, 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
- 1.2 This report gives the committee the opportunity to instruct Officers to prepare an application. This would be in the context of the title attaching to the post of Provost and not the post holder. If successful, all future Provosts of the City of Inverness would hold the title of Lord Provost. This would not have any impact on the role of the Lord Lieutenant for Inverness Shire (currently James Wotherspoon), who would remain the Queen's Representative.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to:
- i. Note the terms of the application form and process detailed within **Appendix 1** attached.
 - ii. Note that the Title of Lord Provost will not change the status of the Provost of Inverness within the context of the Council.
 - iii. Note that if successful, the additional Title would act to enhance the profile of the City and that of the Highlands in the context of Inverness having the same status as other leading Cities within Scotland
 - iv. Note that the sum of £2,000 has been allocated by the Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee together with a further sum of £1,500 from the Infrastructure

and Environment budget for the provision of support in preparation of the application noting the tight timeframe.

- v. Agree to an application being made for the grant of Lord Provostship status which would attach to the title of the Provost of Inverness, to the HRH Queen's Platinum Jubilee Lord Provostship Competition.

3. Implications

3.1 Resource

The application process will be led by the Inverness City Area Manager, with support from Kevin Murray Associates. Funding from the ICGF 2021/22 budget in the sum of £2,000, together with a further sum of £1,500 from the Infrastructure and Environment budget will support this application.

3.2 Legal

There are no legal implications as a result of this report.

3.3 Community (Equality, Poverty, Rural and Island)

If successful, the additional Title could only enhance the capacity of the City to represent the promotion of the relevant policies and projects.

3.4 Climate Change / Carbon Clever

There are no climate change or carbon clever implications as result of this report.

3.5 Risk

The reputation of the City can only be enhanced through making a strong application and improve further should it be successful

3.6 Gaelic

There are no Gaelic implications as a result of this report.

4. Introduction

4.1 The City of Inverness has had the benefit of City status since 2001. Unlike many other Cities in Scotland the Provost of Inverness has never had the Title of "Lord Provost" unlike Scotland's other principal cities such as Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Glasgow. This application process provides the Council with a unique opportunity to achieve Lord Provost status for the City and the Highlands, without impacting on the role of the Lord Lieutenant for Inverness Shire as the HRH The Queen's Representative for the County of Inverness-shire.

4.2 With the current advances being made with City planning and the development of an Inverness strategy all founded on a number of key projects being delivered or in the late stages of development, this opportunity has come at the right time. Investment within the City is strong, and the promotion of further projects can only be enhanced by the City being granted Lord Provostship status.

5. Process

5.1 **Appendix 1** contains the application form along with the guidance notes. A strong application will reflect the Civic heritage of the City which stretches back to St Columba along with its ability to adapt and develop through the ages by offering a welcoming and open-hearted culture to successive generations. The City is one of the fastest growing

in Europe and this remains the case today because of its ability to attract people from all walks of life and most importantly from all cultures and regions across the world.

- 5.2 It will also be an opportunity to highlight the context of the City as a regional hub which thrives from a vibrant Highlands. Its place as Britain's most northerly City at the heart of a phenomenal landscape and environment will also be strengthened by a successful application. This would also be in line with the Council's policies on climate change as the raised profile would give additional positive impact to promotion of this policy.
- 5.3 Timelines are very tight, and the amount of information required from several sources means that for the best possible outcome the assistance of Kevin Murray Associates has been secured at a cost of £3,500, who are experienced in submitting applications of this nature.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 Officers are recommending approval to prepare and lodge an application as this is a unique opportunity which fits with the current work in process to deliver a vibrant and successful City in the Highlands for the future benefit for the people of Inverness and the Highlands

Designation: Inverness City Area Manager

Date: 02 November 2021

Author: David Haas

/ PLATINUM JUBILEE CIVIC HONOURS COMPETITION

APPLICATION FORM - INSTRUCTIONS

Entrants are asked to confine their entries to the following limits, submitted as a PDF using the template attached:

a) A **summary** of the application comprising no more than one A4 page.

b) An **introduction** comprising no more than eight A4 pages of text, highlighting why the area deserves city status / Lord Mayor or Provost status, with particular reference to the area's:

- Distinct identity; -
- Civic pride; -
- Cultural infrastructure, interesting heritage, history and traditions –
- Vibrant and welcoming community; -
- Record of innovation; -
- Sound governance and administration; -
- Associations with Royalty; and
- Other particularly distinctive features, age, residents or communities who have made widely recognised significant contributions to society and cultural infrastructure. –

c) A **profile** of the area, including statistics, to assist understanding of the area and its bid in comparison to the bids of other applicants. Information which it would be helpful to include would be:

- The resident population of the area; -
- Economic activity, including the number of people who work (but do not reside) in the area; -
- Information on public green spaces, sport and leisure facilities, and shopping centres; and -
- Information on local authority support (of any kind) for the voluntary sector. –

The profile should comprise no more than ten A4 pages (including numbers, any tables and graphics).

d) Up to 50 **photographs** of permanent features of the area (rather than events or people), with brief captions describing what is shown. The emphasis should be on giving a representative and reasonably comprehensive impression of the area - especially the part that constitutes or would constitute 'the city centre' - rather than photographic artistry. –

Entry guidelines

PLATINUM JUBILEE CIVIC HONOURS COMPETITION

ENTRY GUIDELINES

Her Majesty The Queen has agreed that competitions may be held for a grant of city status and Lord Mayor or Provost status to mark Her Platinum Jubilee in 2022.

1. 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.
2. Lord Mayoralty or Provostship is an exceptional distinction conferred on the Mayoralties or Provostships of a few – usually long-established and important – cities. Local authorities for existing cities in the United Kingdom are welcome to enter the parallel competition for a Lord Mayoralty or Provostship by the same closing date.
3. Applications may only be made by an elected local authority for its entire area or a distinct area within its boundary.
4. 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.
5. Local authorities are strongly advised not to exceed the limits of the standard size and format as described in application form.
6. 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.

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

8. Applications are requested to be submitted by email to reach the Cabinet Office by 4pm on the closing date, 8 December 2021, at civichonours@cabinetoffice.gov.uk. Alternatively, applications can be submitted by post if preferred, the address to be used is:

Constitutional Policy Team

Cabinet Office

4th Floor Yellow Zone

1 Horse Guards

London

SW1A 2HQ

9. If submitted by post, entrants are asked to notify the Constitutional Policy Team separately when their entries are dispatched, by sending an email, giving the date of dispatch of the hard copies, the name of the local authority submitting the application, and its full contact details. Entries submitted by post should reach the Cabinet Office by the same time on the closing date as those submitted by email.

10. Acknowledgements will be sent by email when the hard copies have been received. If no acknowledgement is received within 6 working days of the closing date (or of dispatch, if earlier), please send a further email to the above address with 'City status entry enquiry' and the name of the local authority area in the heading.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON ENTRY GUIDELINES

Q: Can we involve the public in the compilation of our entry?

A: Yes, by all means, so long as you do not exceed the standard size and format.

Q: Can we publish our entry on our website?

A: Yes, local authorities are welcome to publish their entries if they wish to do so.

Q: Will the Government keep our entry confidential?

A: Not necessarily. We will not automatically be publishing applications however you should be aware that these can be requested under the Freedom of Information Act.

Requests for disclosure will be considered in accordance with the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act. If a local authority wishes any part of its application to remain confidential it is asked to flag this up with a clear indication for us to take into account in deciding whether the information should be released. Wherever possible we would then alert the local authority before releasing such information.

Q: We cannot afford a glossy booklet/external publishers/research. Is it still worth our entering?

A: Yes. The Government does not want local authorities to incur any undue expense entering the competition. It is the quality of the contents of the application, taken as a whole, that will be assessed, rather than the standards of presentation.

Q: We do not have data on all the points suggested. Does this matter?

A: No. Please simply provide whatever you have or can readily obtain. The Government does not want local authorities to incur any undue expense by entering the competition.

Q: Will