

Gloucester City Council

Meeting:	Council	Date:	8 July 2021
Subject:	Platinum Jubilee Civic Honours Competition		
Report Of:	Managing Director		
Wards Affected:	All		
Key Decision:	No	Budget/Policy Framework:	No
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Appendices:	1. Platinum Jubilee Civic Honours Competition Entry Guidelines		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to set out the requirements of the Platinum Jubilee Civic Honours Competition and seek a decision as to whether the council wishes to apply for Lord Mayor status through the competition process.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Council is asked to **RESOLVE** that that the council enters the Platinum Jubilee Civic Honours Competition for Lord Mayor status and authority be delegated to the Managing Director, in consultation with Group Leaders, to prepare and submit the council's application.

3.0 Background and Key Issues

- 3.1 As part of celebrations to mark Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee, Her Majesty will, for the first time in 10 years, award civic honours. The Queen has agreed for a competition to be held to grant the prestigious and rare civic honours of 'city status' and 'Lord Mayor or Lord Provost status', to a select number of worthy towns and cities in the United Kingdom.
- 3.2 The Civic Honours competition is intended to "provide local authorities with the chance to showcase their civic pride, interesting heritage and record of innovation - putting their hometowns on the map and bringing greater prosperity of opportunity".
- 3.3 Gloucester, already a city, can enter the competition for Lord Mayor status, an exceptional distinction given to a small number of long-established and important cities. Given Gloucester's rich history and heritage, coupled with a strong record of innovation and its diverse and welcoming communities, it is considered that the city is well placed to compete for the prestigious honour.
- 3.4 The title of Lord Mayor is a ceremonial title conferred by letters patent; it entitles the city's Mayor to be known as the Lord Mayor during their term of office.

- 3.5 Should the council decide to enter the competition, an application will need to be prepared in line with the entry requirements (see Appendix 1) and submitted to the Cabinet Office by 4.00pm on 8 December 2021. There is no requirement for a graphic designed submission and local authorities are actively encouraged not to incur any undue expense. It will be necessary to draw on knowledge from across the council to compile the application which must consist of no more than 19 A4 pages of text, statistics and graphics, up to 50 photographs of permanent features of the city and one map showing the main tourist, leisure and entertainment sites and green spaces accessible to the public.
- 3.6 The entry requirements explain that each entry will be considered on the merits of its contents and that the decisions made by Her Majesty, on Ministerial advice, will be final. Each local authority will be sent brief comments on its entry when the results of the competitions are announced in 2022, but will not be provided with specific reasons on why an application is successful or unsuccessful.

4.0 Social Value Considerations

- 4.1 There are no social value considerations associated with the report; however, the council's innovative approach to working with its communities would be a key area to highlight in the application.

5.0 Environmental Implications

- 5.1 There are no environmental implications associated with the report; however, information on public open spaces is required for the application.

6.0 Alternative Options Considered

- 6.1 The council could decide not to enter the competition, but it would miss out on the possibility of being awarded Lord Mayor status and, if successful, the opportunity to enhance the city's sense of civic pride and capitalise on the other benefits on this prestigious honour.

7.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 7.1 It is recommended that the council submits an application because of the prestige that Lord Mayor status would bring to the city if successful and because it would be fitting for a city with Gloucester's heritage. It would also be a positive point of interest as the city continues its economic recovery following the Covid19 pandemic and would attract positive media coverage that would benefit the visitor economy.

8.0 Future Work and Conclusions

- 8.1 Details of the entry requirements are outlined in paragraph 3.5 above and in Appendix 1. As noted in 3.5, the application would require contributions from across the council; most information could be drawn from existing sources.
- 8.2 It is suggested that delegated authority be given to the Managing Director to prepare and submit the application, following consultation with Group Leaders on a draft, to ensure that there is cross-party support for the final submission.

9.0 Financial Implications

- 9.1 The entry requirements are very clear that councils should not incur any undue expenses in the preparation of their application, therefore, no budget will be allocated to the project. Costs associated with the preparation of the application are expected to be minor and will be met from existing budgets.

(Financial Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report.)

10.0 Legal Implications

- 10.1 There are no legal implications associated with the report. As noted above, the title of Lord Mayor is a ceremonial title conferred by letters patent.

(One Legal has been consulted in the preparation of this report.)

11.0 Risk & Opportunity Management Implications

- 11.1 As with any competitive process, there is a risk that the council's application is not successful, and there will no doubt be significant interest from cities across the country; however, the potential outcomes that are alluded to in paragraph 7.1 above make it an opportunity worth pursuing.

12.0 People Impact Assessment (PIA) and Safeguarding:

- 12.1 A PIA is not required and there are no safeguarding implications.

13.0 Community Safety Implications

- 13.1 There are no community safety implications.

14.0 Staffing & Trade Union Implications

- 14.1 There are no staffing and trade union implications.

Background Documents: None