

THE QUEEN'S 2012 DIAMOND JUBILEE – COMPETITION FOR GRANT OF LORD MAYORALTY

Report of the Chief Executive

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The report requests that Cabinet recommends to Council that Sunderland's application for the grant of Lord Mayoralty is endorsed.

2.0 Description of Decision

- 2.1 Cabinet is requested to recommend to Council that the detail of the competition entry (copy to be submitted) is noted, and the actions of the Chief Executive endorsed in submitting the application by the deadline of 27th May 2011.

3.0 Lord Mayoralty Competition

- 3.1 Her Majesty The Queen has agreed that a competition may be held for a grant of Lord Mayoralty to mark Her Diamond Jubilee in 2012. Lord Mayoralty is an exceptional distinction conferred on the Mayoralties of a few – usually long-established and important – cities.
- 3.2 The Government's view is that the places to be honoured for the Diamond Jubilee should be vibrant, welcoming communities with interesting histories and distinct identities. Therefore the council needs to provide evidence of its ability to welcome people to the city and provide, promote or facilitate access to a wide variety of places, activities and events.

4.0 Sunderland's Entry

- 4.1 In accordance with competition entry guidelines, Sunderland's application includes a range of information about the city's history and traditions, famous residents, connections with Royalty and other distinctive features. It also tells the story of the city's continued transformation since 1992 when City Status was granted. Maps and photographs of the city's permanent features have also been supplied as required.
- 4.2 As the competition's closing date was 27th May 2011, the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader and the relevant portfolio holder, has authorised the submission of Sunderland's application. A copy of the application will be tabled at the Cabinet meeting.

5.0 Reasons for Decision

- 5.1 The submission of an application to the Lord Mayoralty competition will help to raise the profile of the city, highlighting its special features and characteristics, and the achievements, progress and successes of the past two decades since City Status was granted to Sunderland in 1992.

5.2 Should Sunderland win the competition, the special honour of Lord Mayoralty would be conferred upon the city in celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, further distinguishing Sunderland as an important English city.

6.0 Alternative Options

6.1 To decline the invitation to enter the Lord Mayoralty competition and withdraw the application submitted.

7.0 Financial Implications

7.1 The minimal costs of producing the Lord Mayoralty competition application, are provided for within the Council's base budget.

Background Papers

Civic Honours Entry Guidelines