
Report To:	Policy & Resources Committee	Date:	16 November 2021
Report By:	Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications	Report No:	PR/22/21/GB
Contact Officer:	George Barbour	Contact No:	01475 712385
Subject:	HM The Queen Platinum Jubilee 2022 and City Status		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to highlight the opportunity to bid for City Status as part of HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 Her Majesty The Queen celebrates 70 years as Monarch – the first time any British Monarch has reached this historic milestone.
- 2.2 A range of celebrations are planned to mark the occasion including a civic honours competition including opportunities for towns to bid for city status and Lord Mayor, or Provost, status.
- 2.3 The report highlights the successful bid by Perth to achieve city status in 2012, includes information on community consultation on a bid for Greenock and a proposed bid text for potential submission.
- 2.4 The report notes that there are no direct costs to submitting a bid and the only costs are existing staff time in compiling a bid document and creation of a pdf document with visuals to email to the submission panel and that the process is aimed at minimising costs to councils planning to submit bids.
- 2.5 It also notes that each bid is judged on its own merits and that the decision on awarding city status rests with the Monarch and there is currently no specific requirement that a city should be of a particular size or have, for example, a Cathedral within its boundaries.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Members:

- (1) Review the community views and information from the successful Perth bid for city status and agree whether a bid should be submitted before the deadline for submissions for City Status for Greenock.

STEVEN MCNAB
HEAD OF ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, POLICY & COMMUNICATIONS

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Her Majesty The Queen celebrates 70 years as Monarch – the first time any British Monarch has reached this historic milestone.
- 4.2 A range of celebrations are planned to mark the occasion including a four-day holiday weekend on 2-5 June 2022; The Queen’s Green Canopy; The Queen’s Birthday Parade (Trooping the Colour); Platinum Jubilee Beacons; The Big Jubilee Lunch and The Platinum Jubilee Pageant.
- 4.3 In addition, as part of these celebrations, there is a civic honours competition. This includes competitions for city status and Lord Mayor, or Provost, status.
- 4.4 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 is welcome to enter the competition (the entry guidelines are included at Appendix 1).
- 4.5 Local authorities for existing cities in the United Kingdom are welcome to enter the parallel competition for a Lord Mayoralty or Provostship.
- 4.6 The last time the competition was created was to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee in 2012 and three places - Chelmsford, Perth and St Asaph – won city status.
- 4.7 10 years ago 26 towns applied for city status: Bolton, Bournemouth, Chelmsford, Colchester, Coleraine, Corby, Craigavon, Croydon, Doncaster, Dorchester, Dudley, Dumfries, Gateshead, Goole, Luton, Medway, Middlesbrough, Milton Keynes, Perth, Reading, Southend, St Asaph, St Austell, Stockport, Tower Hamlets and Wrexham.

5.0 PERTH – CITY STATUS IN 2012

- 5.1 In 2012, on the occasion of HM The Queen’s Diamond Jubilee the town of Perth successfully bid for city status.
- 5.2 The bid centred on the areas historic claim as the first capital of Scotland, it’s determination to be a vibrant and successful regional centre for Perth and Kinross and its ambition to become a dynamic international city offering unrivalled business, artistic, educational, cultural and sporting opportunities for its citizens and visitors.
- 5.3 On the fifth anniversary following the achievement of city status, Councillors at Perth and Kinross Council highlighted their belief that the achievement of city status has “opened many doors for Perth”.
- 5.4 In particular they highlighted the seat at the Scottish Cities Alliance, which is a collaboration of Scotland’s seven existing Cities – Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Inverness, Perth and Stirling - and the Scottish Government.
- 5.5 Perth councillors believe that this has provided a platform to help spread the word about the area across Scotland and internationally to drive investment.
- 5.6 As part of the Scottish Cities Alliance Perth has, since achieving City Status, been able to tap into the activities of the group including investment promotion, ‘smart cities’ development, working towards building a hydrogen economy across Scottish Cities and the opportunity to work with partners to inform key policy discussions.
- 5.7 Through the Scottish Cities Alliance, Perth has promoted investment in its £90m Perth West and £7.6m Perth Food and Drink Park developments.

- 5.8 As a member of the Scottish Cities Alliance, Perth has also benefited from being involved in the 'Smart Cities' project which aims to develop data and digital technology projects across Scotland's existing seven cities.
- 5.9 Two of the projects to emerge from the initiative include the innovation lab as part of a £4.5m creative hub to support creative business incubation, development and growth and the use of mapping and data gathering technology to tackle fly-tipping.
- 5.10 Perth is one of Scotland's fastest growing cities with a population growth forecast of approximately 10,000 over the next 15 years.

6.0 PUBLIC VIEW OF A GREENOCK CITY STATUS BID

- 6.1 A short survey was created to gather the views of the community on a city status bid for Greenock.
- 6.2 The results of the survey highlight overall a negative view of city status based on an expectation that submitting a bid is, in itself, a labour intensive and expensive operation and that bidding for city status would divert financial and staffing resources away from the delivery of other services.
- 6.3 The survey results are contained at Appendix 2 and highlight that 61% of respondents would not back a bid to become a city; 63% do not believe that city status would help to boost population; respondents are split close to 50/50 on whether Greenock would benefit from being part of The Scottish Cities Alliance; 56% don't believe that city status would encourage investment in the area; 57% don't believe it would raise Greenock's profile within the UK while 50% believe it would raise the profile within Scotland.
- 6.4 Comments to the survey highlighted the views that Greenock is a town and not a city, more needs to be done on existing town centre and social issues before a bid should be submitted, Greenock is too small to become a city and that submitting a bid is costly and diverts resources from other services.
- 6.5 Supportive comments highlighted the opportunity to raise the profile of the area and recognise its heritage and potential.
- 6.6 The Herald Newspaper conducted a reader poll (highlighted in Appendix 3) on the areas of Scotland currently considering City Status which resulted in Dunfermline (45%); Greenock (30%); Oban (13%); Dumfries (8%) and Irvine (4%).
- 6.7 Outwith the Civic Honours competition, it was announced that HM The Queen had agreed that Southend would achieve city status following the brutal murder of Sir David Amess MP.
- 6.8 City status for Southend was a long running ambition for the area's MP and one that has been described as a fitting tribute to his 40 years as a Parliamentarian and champion for his constituency.

7.0 A BID FOR GREENOCK TO BECOME A CITY

- 7.1 While it is entirely understandable that many people believe that the submission of a bid is a costly enterprise, the bidding process is set up to be light touch and seeks to avoid local authorities incurring expenditure in submitting a bid or in engaging in lobbying for a bid.
- 7.2 The bid itself must be limited to a set page numbers including a one page of A4 summary, no more than eight pages of text outlining the bid, profile data of no more than 10 pages of A4, submission of photographs of permanent features in the area and a map showing the main locations.

- 7.3 This means that a bid for city status has no direct costs associated with it and can be submitted using existing staff time to compile the data and visuals required. Draft text is set out at Appendix 4 which could form the main body of a submission and Appendix 5 includes a list of images which could be submitted as part of a bid.
- 7.4 Each bid for City Status is judged on its own merits and the only criteria for becoming a city is to be awarded it by the Monarch
- 7.5 There is currently no specific requirement that a city should be of a particular size or have, for example, a Cathedral within its boundaries in order to be classed as a city.
- 7.6 Scotland's current seven cities have varying levels of population and should Greenock be selected it would not be the smallest City in Scotland, that position is currently held by Stirling.

The seven cities populations are:

Glasgow (612,000)
 Edinburgh (488,000)
 Aberdeen (200,000)
 Dundee (148,280)
 Perth (47,000)
 Inverness (47,000)
 Stirling (37,000)

- 7.7 Among the current potential bidders for City status populations also vary:
 Dunfermline (53,000)
 Greenock (43,000)
 Irvine (34,000)
 Dumfries (33,000)
 Oban (8,490)
- 7.8 The deadline for submission of a bid document is 8 December 2021.

8.0 IMPLICATIONS

8.1 Finance

Financial Implications:

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
N/A					

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments
N/A					

8.2 Legal

N/A

8.3 Human Resources

As outlined in the report

8.4 Equalities

Equalities

(a) Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out?

X

YES (see attached appendix)

NO – This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, no Equality Impact Assessment is required

(b) Fairer Scotland Duty

If this report affects or proposes any major strategic decision:-

Has there been active consideration of how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome?

X

YES – A written statement showing how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage has been completed.

NO

(c) Data Protection

Has a Data Protection Impact Assessment been carried out?

X

YES – This report involves data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.

NO

8.5 Repopulation

Events including remembrance commemorations are an important part of the council's repopulation place marketing ambitions to encourage visitors from outside of Inverclyde to the area and help to support the promotion and marketing town and village centres. Large scale celebrations of local and national events can support community cohesion and help instil a sense of place in communities. The opportunity to gain City Status for a part of Inverclyde opens up profile raising opportunities and the chance for part of Inverclyde to be represented on The Scottish Cities Alliance.

9.0 CONSULTATIONS

9.1 A community consultation has taken place and is included in the appendices of this report.

10.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

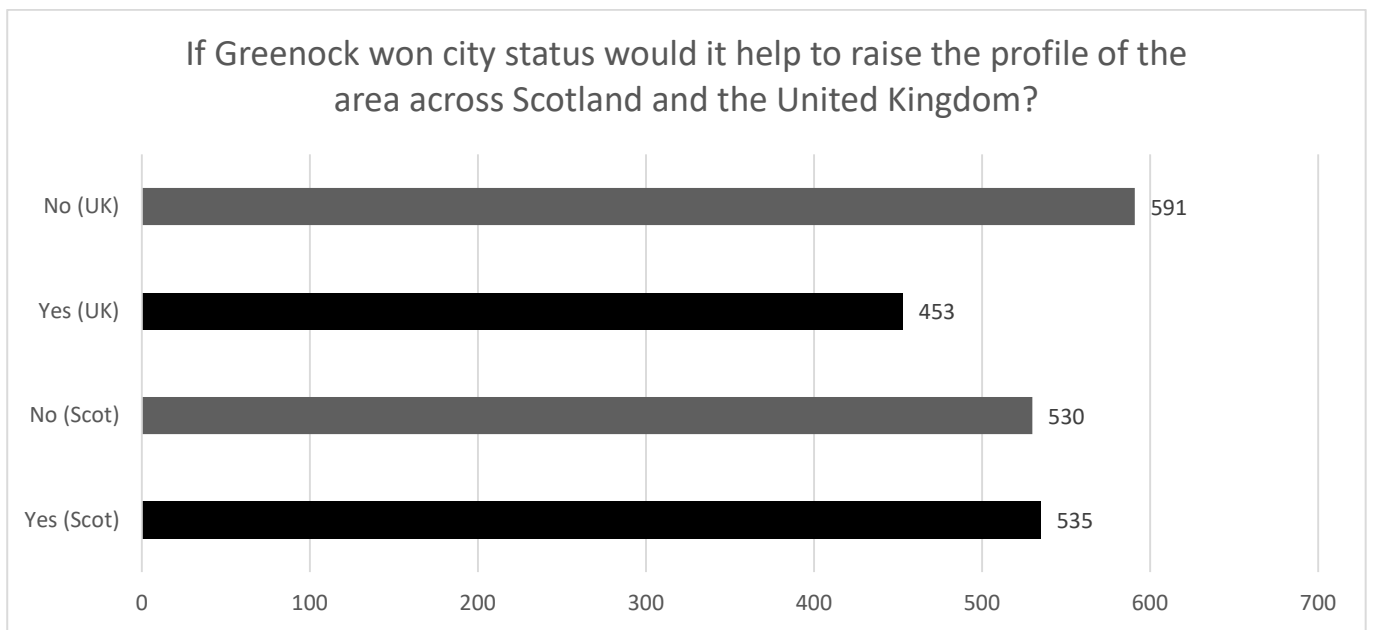
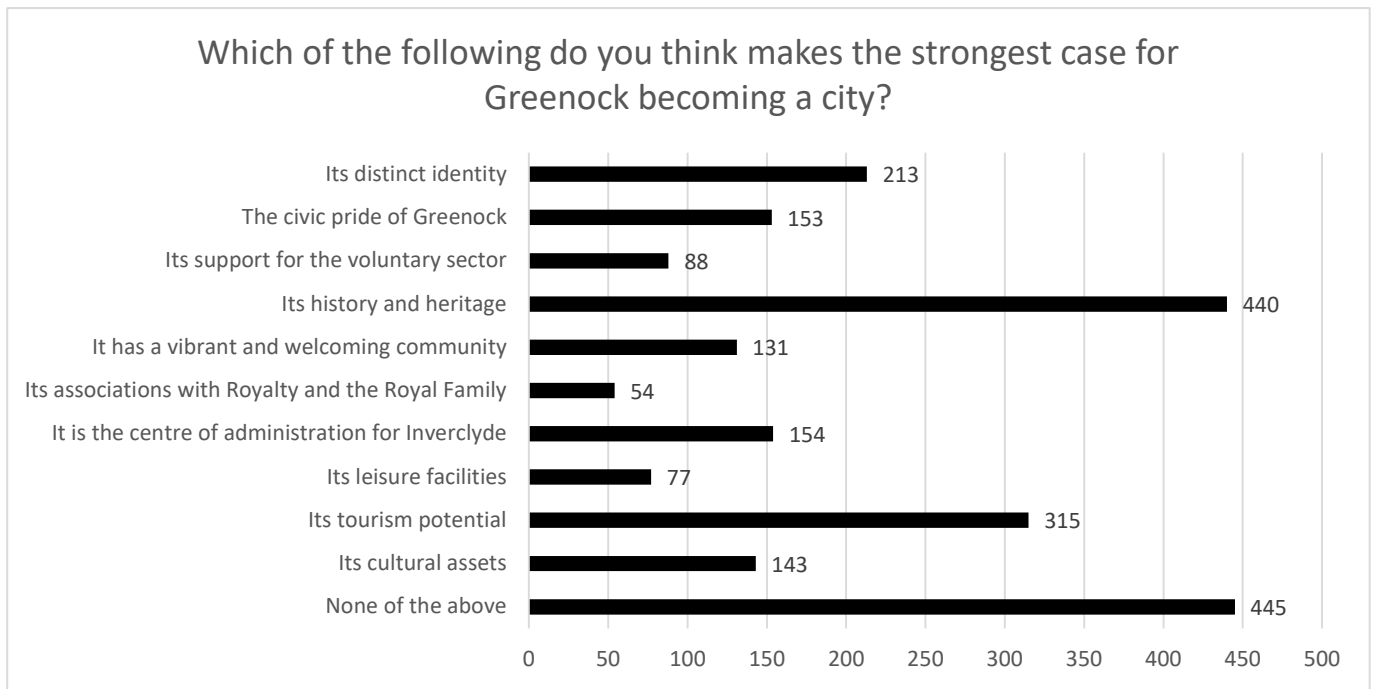
10.1 Item 11. HM The Queen Platinum Jubilee 2022, Policy & Resources Committee, Tuesday 14 September 2021 (HR/28/21/GB)

APPENDIX 1: PLATINUM JUBILEE CIVIC HONOURS COMPETITION ENTRY GUIDELINES

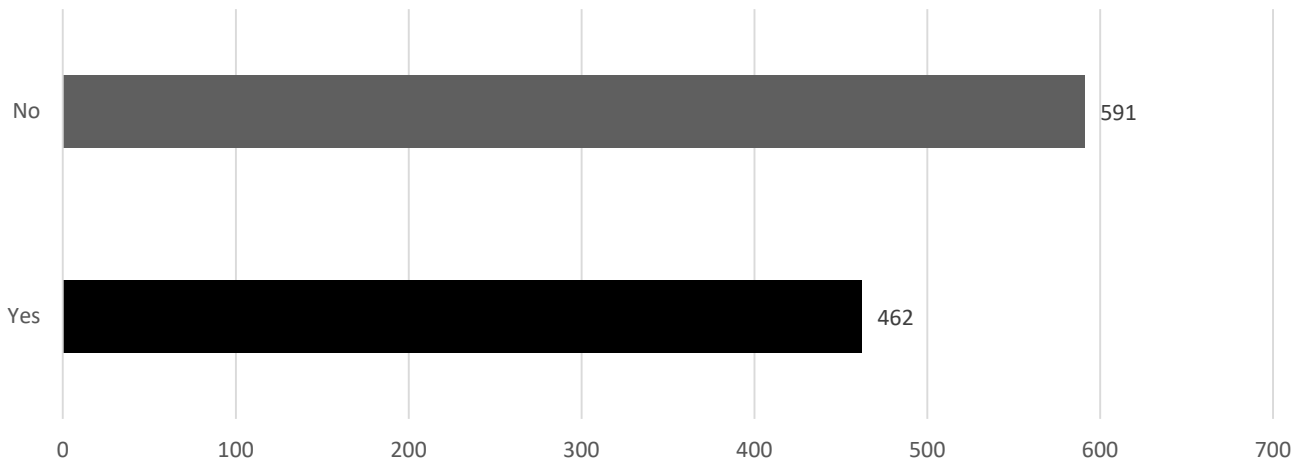
Her Majesty The Queen has agreed that competitions may be held for a grant of city status and Lord Mayor or Provost status to mark Her Platinum Jubilee in 2022.

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.

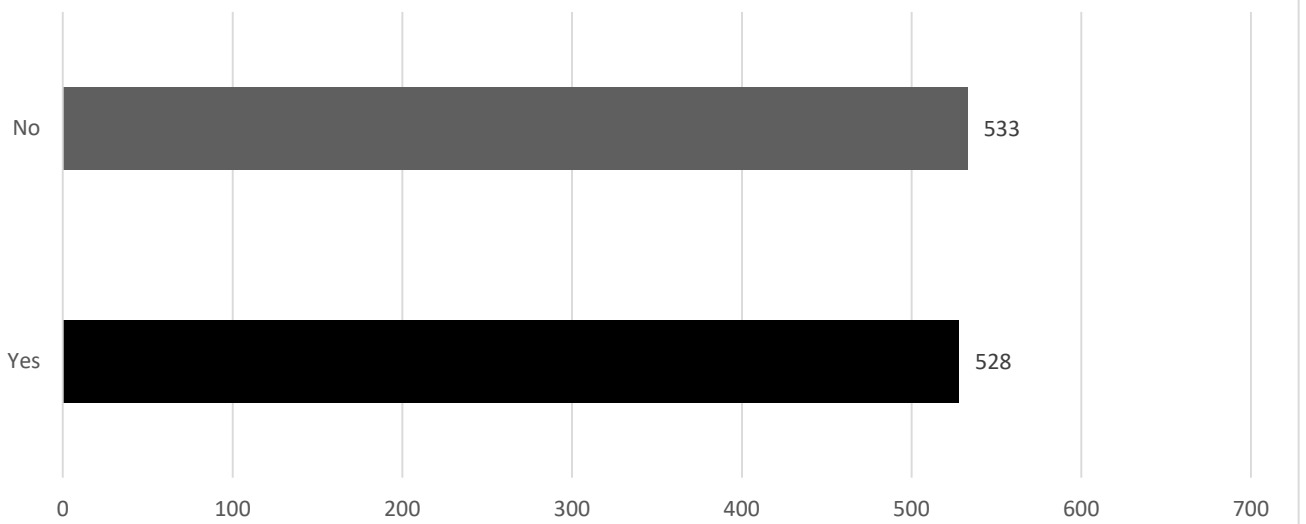
APPENDIX 2: GREENOCK CITY STATUS BID – SURVEY RESULTS



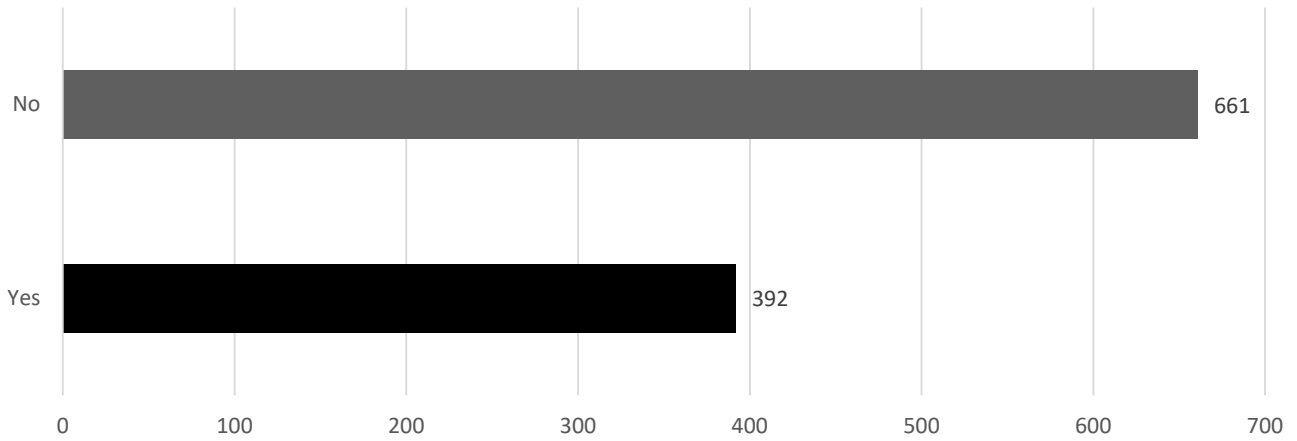
If Greenock won city status would it help to boost the economy by encouraging investment in the area?



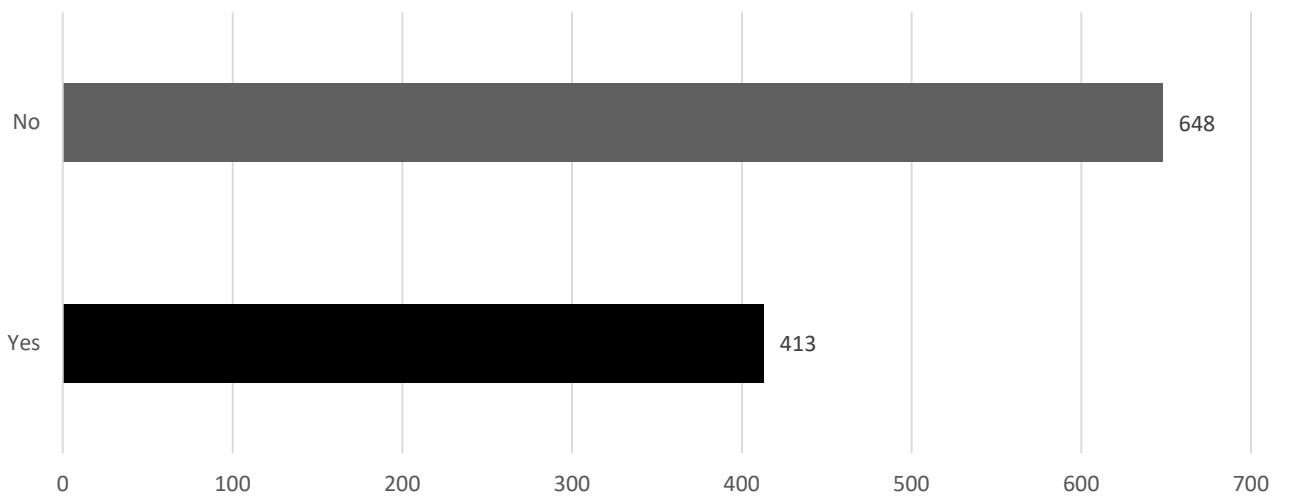
Do you think it would benefit Greenock being part of the network of the seven other Scottish cities?



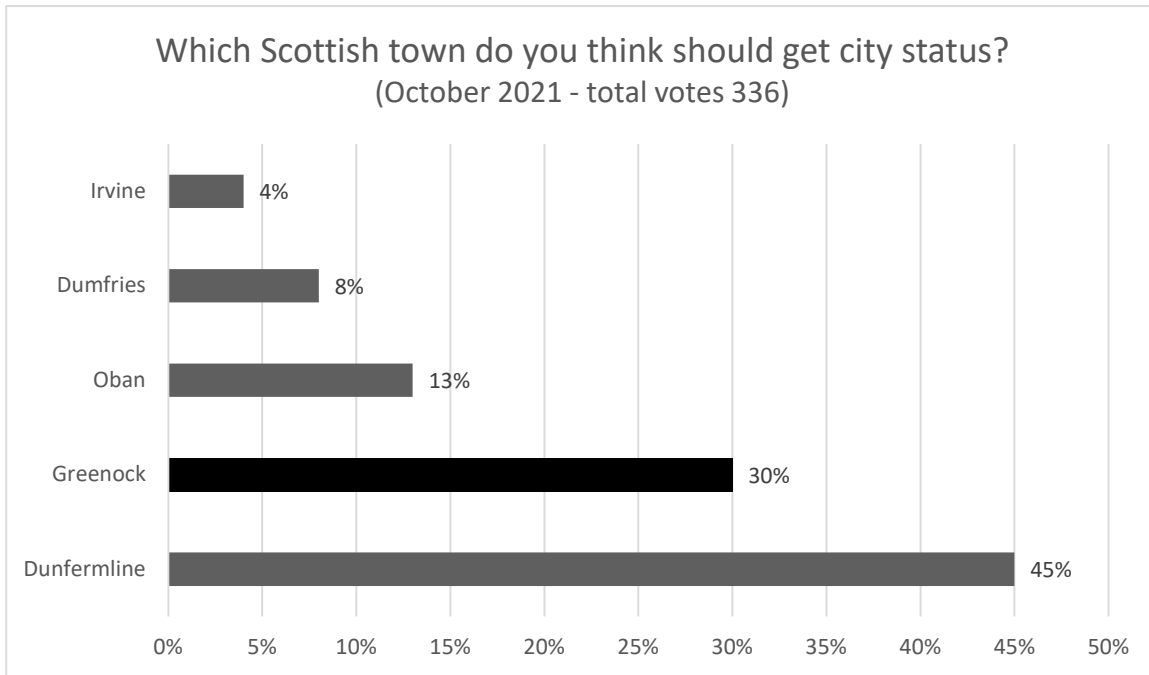
If Greenock won city status would it help to boost the population by encouraging more people to live in the area or to continue to live here?



Do you back a bid for Greenock to become a city?



APPENDIX 3: SCOTLAND'S CITY STATUS BIDS – HERALD READER POLL



APPENDIX 4: A BID PROPOSAL FOR GREENOCK TO ACHIEVE CITY STATUS

Our place

Greenock was raised to a Burgh of Barony by virtue of a Charter of 1635, according to Robert Murray Smith's History of Greenock originally published in 1921.

He went on to highlight that the name Greenock has gone through many spelling variations and claims around its origination ranging from a derivation of the British word Graenag, a gravelly or sunny place, the Gaelic Grianach, a sunny bay and even Grian, the sun, and cnoc, a hill.

There's even been suggestions that a famous large Green Oak grew on the banks of the River Clyde and that the fishermen "...made fast their cables to its trunk".

Wherever the name originated, Greenock's strong identity and pivotal position in the Firth of Clyde has made it a feature of Scottish life and its history and ambition to rise above the worst effects of the covid pandemic make the area an ideal candidate to be considered for the honour of City status as part of HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

James Watt

Greenock's most famous son is also one of Scotland and the United Kingdom's and a name memorialised everywhere there is illumination around the world – James Watt (1736-1819).

Born in the town on 19 January 1736, James Watt's life as an inventor, mechanical engineer and chemist was one of invention and innovation and a life that changed the world within his lifetime.

His work in improving Newcomen Steam Engine making his steam engine improvements into the mechanical workhorse of the Industrial Revolution.

When James Watt died on 25 August 1819, while his body was buried in the grounds of St Mary's Church in Birmingham, his name lives on in memorials throughout the world and in his hometown.

The location of his birth is memorialised by a statue to Watt, the town's marina, James Watt Dock, bears his name and the recently refurbished library and museum adopted in 2019 an historic name, The Watt Institution, to further memorialise him in the town of his birth.

Shipbuilding

As a port town, Greenock, became symbols of the rise and decline of the shipbuilding industry in Scotland.

From its early days when John Scott's company was founded in 1711 in Greenock shipbuilding in the lower Clyde through ingenuity and entrepreneurship helped to make the town one of the world's most significant maritime hubs with ships built in the town touching every corner of the globe.

Scott's yard was at the forefront of the expansion of shipbuilding and was the first shipyard on the Clyde to build a vessel for non-Scottish owners in 1765 and its first warship The Prince of Wales in 1806.

The years 1875 to 1914 saw the greatest development of Inverclyde's shipbuilding industry.

In the years after the First World War depression hit the industry and despite a brief reprieve by the need for shipbuilding during World War Two the industry faced competition from abroad, restructuring and closures.

Immigration and emigration

Greenock was a major immigration port in the 1840s and 50s. Scots looking for pastures new following the Highland Clearances and people from Ireland escaping the Great Famine headed for Greenock. It also played a major role as a port of embarkation in the 19th and 20th centuries which saw thousands of men, women and children seek new lives across the Commonwealth and in the USA.

The Radical War

Greenock's Bank Street holds an important place in The Radical War of 1820. Also known as the 'Scottish Insurrection', soldiers opened fire on a crowd who tried to free impoverished anti-government protesters being escorted to Greenock jail.

Eight people were killed, including an eight-year-old boy and a man aged 65 – the youngest and oldest victims, and a further 10 were seriously injured.

It is regarded by many as the starting point of trade unionism in Scotland.

A memorial stands on the site and the names of all the victims and the words 'remember the 8th of April, that bloody day when many were wounded and carried away' are also inscribed along the wall at Bank Street, near to where the jail was located in 1820.

The war years

Because of its pivotal position on the Firth of Clyde, Greenock was an important location to support the Armed Forces during the Second World War.

The town became the home port of the displaced Free French Navy during the war with the permanent memorial of the Cross of Lorraine standing proudly at the top of Lyle Hill marking the link which has become a place of pilgrimage for French Naval personnel whenever stationed in The Clyde.

The memorial is also attended each year by the French Consul on Remembrance Sunday where wreaths are laid by the area's Provost and other dignitaries.

The nights of 6 and 7 May 1941 are remembered each year in Greenock to commemorate the 271 people killed in the Greenock Blitz.

A further 10,200 were injured during the bombings, which also destroyed some 5,000 local homes and caused damaged to nearly 25,000 more.

The raids by German bombers over these two nights targeted the shipyards and berthed ships around the town. However, the brunt of the bombing fell on residential areas across the town. Many of those were children and entire families were lost.

A permanent Memorial sits in Greenock Cemetery to commemorate the dead of the Greenock Blitz.

Our Royal Connections

Towering above Greenock from the top of the historic Municipal Buildings the Victoria Tower is a symbol of the success and wealth of Greenock during the era.

It stands 75 metres tall and was constructed in 1886 in Clyde Square.

In 2012 when Her Majesty and HRH The Prince Phillip (1921-2021) were visiting Greenock to formally open the new customer service centre in the Municipal Buildings it is the Victoria Tower that drew their attention in a famous photograph taken by a local photographer during the visit.

Though this was not Her Majesty's first visit to the town.

Admiralty archives show the young Princess Elizabeth accompanying the King and Queen on a visit to HMS King George V on 29 October 1944.

The Watt Library can make its connection directly to Her Majesty's principle residence. It is now part of the newly refurbished Watt Institution and was created by contributions of the James Watt Club, the now Category A listed building contains a replica of Chantrey's famous statue of Watt.

It was opened in 1837 and designed from drawings of Sir Edward Blore (1787-1879) who counted among his other architectural projects Buckingham Palace and the restoration of Lambeth Palace.

Today Inverclyde's connection with the Royal Family links to the extraordinary success of our young people in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme.

Our municipal Infrastructure, transport links and media

Greenock's Municipal Buildings in Clyde Square is the municipal headquarters for local government since its creation in the 1880s and has housed the municipal services of the town originally providing the home for the town's court, fire service and police service.

The Fire and Police services for the town are now headquartered in separate buildings today with other Municipal Services housed in the town including Greenock Sherriff Court, Inverclyde Royal Hospital. In addition to Inverclyde Council's Municipal duties, the council is also port authority as one of the areas of the country with a major container port in its district within the town at Greenock Ocean Terminal.

Greenock is served by 10 primary schools and four secondaries. The town's Lomond View Academy is a joint education and social work resource which provides an alternative to mainstream education and care services for young people who are experiencing social, emotional and behavioural difficulties. It seeks to keep young people in both their community and school in the hope of avoiding the need to access residential care and education.

Schools across Inverclyde have been part of an investment programme which has delivered the ambition that every school in the area will either be a new build or significant refurbishment to ensure young people have the very best learning environment. Inverclyde and Greenock now boasts arguably one of the best school estates in the country.

Greenock is also home to the two local campuses for West College Scotland. The college is currently based at Finnart Street and the Waterfront but has ambitious plans to deliver a new college centre at the waterfront area of Greenock.

Greenock's Central Station was opened in 1841 marking a new era in rail travel. Greenock has eight train stations serving the town, one of the highest numbers outside the major cities in the country.

Its transport links connect Greenock to Central Station in Glasgow in 30 minutes by train and Glasgow Airport is only a short car journey along the A8/M8 from Greenock.

The area is also served by nearby ferry connections to Dunoon and the area serves as the gateway to Argyll through ferry services at nearby Gourock.

Greenock is also on the scenic coastal route to Ayrshire and The Isle of Arran within easy reach.

The James Watt Dock is the only marina within Greenock and one of two within Inverclyde. It provides 170 pontoon berths and has become a regular location for superyachts from around the world thanks to its deep water, facilities and transport connections.

At Greenock Ocean Terminal the port became the first in the country to breach the 100,000 passenger mark for cruise ship passengers and prior to the covid lockdown was on course to surpass that number.

Work is underway to deliver a new cruise visitor centre in Greenock and a new pontoon is already in use for visiting cruise ships extending the quayside and continue to grow the business to welcome, post covid, up to 150,000 passengers with the potential to generate up to £26m of value to the Scottish economy through the cruise market.

Greenock is one of the very few places in the country outside of the Cities with a daily newspaper operating six days-a-week. The Greenock Telegraph, known locally as the 'tele' was founded in 1857 and was the first 'halfpenny' daily newspaper in Britain. It still incorporates The Clyde Shipping Gazette and the Variorum column is the world's oldest newspaper column.

Our visitor attractions and events

Across Greenock you will find glimpses of the history of the area surrounding you and in a range of fascinating visitor attractions.

The Watt Institution is home to the McLean Museum and Art Gallery and the Watt Library.

The James Watt Library was built in 1837 with the museum and hall constructed in the same style in 1876. The museum, known as the McLean Museum and Art Gallery, is the main museum in the Inverclyde area and has many wonderful collections for the visitor to discover and explore.

The displays feature an outstanding art collection, items related to the engineer James Watt, displays on Inverclyde's maritime and industrial traditions as well as world cultures, Egyptology and natural history.

The Watt Library contains many of the town's records and is of great interest for anyone wanting to trace their families in the local area.

A large marble statue of James Watt by Sir Frances Chantrey stands within.

Greenock's Esplanade is just over a mile long, and is a popular walk with river views. Originally the gardens of the mansions on the Esplanade ran down to the water's edge. The Esplanade road and walkway were then built using materials from the Albert Harbour. Walking along the Esplanade you will see many of the mansions built by the wealthy merchants and business families of the town.

The church at The Esplanade, now known as the Lyle Kirk, was founded in 1591 and originally built in the middle of the town. It was moved stone by stone to its present location in 1925 - 1928. The reason for this is that in 1917 Harland & Wolff bought Caird Shipbuilders' yard in Greenock and wished to extend.

The Church is home to what is considered some of the finest stained glass and attracts attention from all over the world.

Greenock's former fire station in the Municipal Buildings has been converted into a fire museum and is the only one of its kind in the country.

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Museum and Heritage Centre is a four star visitor attraction and run by volunteers to preserve, restore and conserve vintage fire engines, firefighting equipment and uniforms.

Cathcart Square was the civic and commercial heart of Greenock. The church, known locally as the 'Toon Kirk' was built in 1760 with its 146 foot high steeple added in 1787. A handsome classical church, its iconic portico and steeple were modelled on St Martin-in-the-Fields Church in London.

The horseshoe embedded between the church and the fountain was the location for hangings and public floggings.

The ornate Lyle central fountain was gifted to the town by Provost Abram Lyle in 1880. It was designed by Mr F.A. Scudamore of Coventry. Bronze shields which bear the crests of the Ardgowan and Cartsburn families and 16 other prominent families of Greenock can be seen above the fountain.

The fountain has recently been given a complete refurbishment to bring it back to its former glory as a centrepiece in the town.

Abram Lyle was a successful businessman born in Greenock in 1820 and was a partner in the largest shipping fleet in Greenock, transporting sugar from the West Indies.

With four business partners Lyle bought the Glebe Sugar refinery in 1865. He was the Provost of Greenock from 1876 - 1879.

The Beacon Arts Centre is a multi-million pound investment in a flagship arts hub sitting on the banks of the Clyde at Greenock and welcoming touring companies and home grown artists to perform and exhibit.

Greenock hosts unique events in the Scottish calendar including the annual Galoshans festival which takes a uniquely Greenockian word for Hallowe'en and the arts community has built and exciting annual festival around it.

Though technically in Greenock, Battery Park becomes a part of Gourock each May as the home of the first Highland Games and outdoor piping event of the Scottish season with the Gourock Highland Games which, pre-covid was regularly receiving attendances of over 10,000 people with an increasing number of visitors from overseas.

In May and June 2022, the celebrations for the Platinum Jubilee will be incorporated into a Meliora Festival which brings a range of events together as part of the area recovery plans to deliver the British Pipe Band Championships, one of the five Major Scottish Piping Championships. It will also include an outdoor arts event and a brand new obstacle course for adults and young people as the centrepieces of a two-month festival of events including local community events across Inverclyde.

The links to Robert Burns

While there is no evidence that The Bard visited Greenock, its links to Robert Burns resonate to this day right around the world.

Greenock is home to the Burns Mother Club where on the 21st July 1801, the anniversary of Burns' death - the Greenock Burns Club and Ayrshire Society was founded. The purpose of the club was to honour the memory of Robert Burns and encourage the reading and understanding of his works.

On 29th January, 1802, the club held its first anniversary dinner where 40 members sat down to a sumptuous repast and began the annual celebration of a 'Burns Supper' which continues to this day to memorialise and remember the Poet across the globe.

Greenock is also the final resting place of Mary Campbell also known as Highland Mary and immortalised in poetry and song.

Mary's grave was a place of pilgrimage for Mary Todd Lincoln four years after her husband President Abraham Lincoln was assassinated in the United States of America. Her visit to Greenock, part of a wider tour, was said to be because of her love for Burns' poems.

Our compassion

Inverclyde has a long tradition of being a welcoming place where community spirit links are very strong.

Compassionate Inverclyde takes the principles of Professor Allan Kellehear's Compassionate Cities approach to create a place of compassion towards death, dying and loss.

Compassionate Inverclyde has its roots in Greenock bringing together partner organisations including Ardgowan Hospice, Inverclyde Health and Social Care Partnership and the voluntary sector to ensure members have the skills and support in place to ensure end of life care and that no one dies alone.

The impact of Covid and through to recovery

At the height of the pandemic Inverclyde was highlighted as the 'covid capital of Scotland' due to the high levels of infection rates and deaths.

Two of Inverclyde's residents were high profile in the national media as the first nurse to lose her life, Janice Graham, and the first teacher in the country, Gerry McHugh. The reaction to Janice and Gerry showed the heartache of the pandemic and the community spirit of Greenock and Inverclyde coming together to support each other through difficult times.

The pandemic showed agencies, individuals, including young people, volunteers and charities all working together to support each other and the wider community through the worst effects of the pandemic.

Prior to covid central Greenock was highlighted as the area of the country with the highest levels of deprivation.

Covid has shown that areas such as Greenock need greater resilience.

The council's covid recovery plans and the recovery plans developed by the Inverclyde Alliance community planning partnership have focussed on getting people and communities out of poverty to build that resilience.

They also significantly target jobs and employability and supporting people to access services and opportunities to increase community wealth building.

Going forward Greenock and Inverclyde's focus will be on recovering from the pandemic and ensuring that its communities are more resilient going forward.

The benefit of City Status for Greenock

Greenock has been of strategic importance during important stages of our nation's history.

It is birthplace to a son who drove the Industrial Revolution and who made a mark on world history felt even today.

It has seen times of huge wealth and times of struggle and poverty.

Throughout it all, Greenock has shown it has strength of character and compassion and the will to get through difficult times and come out the other side.

City status does not provide in itself additional jobs or investment, it doesn't put extra money directly into people's pockets and on its own it won't bring extra visitors to the area.

As part of the area's overarching recovery plans to support the community to be more resilient through increased community wealth building, levering in more investment and getting more jobs, City Status for Greenock can be a catalyst for those things.

City status would recognise the history and heritage of Greenock and help to look forward to a future which builds on the strong civic and community pride to encourage our area to stand a little taller and a little prouder.

It can help to shine a light on an area which has been there for our country at important moments and has the ambition and drive to be there again and to take its place as a significant Scottish and UK city.

It can help to remind those who have forgotten about the incredible contribution the place has made and it can encourage those who don't know yet that there is something worth discovering in Greenock.

City status for Greenock will be a catalyst to support covid recovery plans, to drive our ambition to ensure that Greenock becomes once again that strong, metropolitan, outward looking international centre it has been throughout its history and can be again as Scotland's eighth city.

Appendix 5: Visuals to be included in the Citys Status bid for Greenock

1. Lyle Hill (view across the Clyde Estuary)
2. Lyle Hill (Free French Memorial)
3. Aerial view of Greenock looking towards the Argyll hills.
4. Watt Institution (Museum)
5. Watt Institution (Watt Library)
6. Beacon Arts Centre
7. Custom House Quay
8. The Greenock Burns Exhibition and Archive
9. The Waverley at Greenock/Custom House Quay
10. New cruise ship centre (artists impression)
11. James Watt Dock (Sugar Sheds and Titan Crane)
12. James Watt Dock (Superyachts)
13. Sailing tours to the Sugar Boat out of James Watt Dock
14. Scottish Fire Museum
15. Inverclyde Council Municipal Buildings
16. Greenock Esplanade
17. Greenock Ocean Terminal (container terminal)
18. Greenock Cut
19. Cruise Ship visiting Greenock
20. Inverclyde Royal Hospital
21. Greenock Sherriff Court
22. Well Park Mid Kirk
23. Well park
24. Loch Thom
25. Wood Nymph and Greenock sign
26. Ginger The Horse
27. Lyle Fountain
28. Dutch Gable House
29. Watt Birthplace statue
30. Waterfront leisure centre
31. Battery Park
32. Inchgreen Dry Dock
33. Greenock Town Hall
34. The Albany Theatre
35. Tontine Hotel
36. Glenpark Cricket Ground
37. Greenock Cemetery
38. Greenock Golf Club
39. Whinhill Golf Club
40. Radical War Memorial