



Chloe Smith MP
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Meg Hillier MP
Chair, Public Accounts Committee
House of Commons
SW1A 0AA

8 June 2021

Dear Chair,

Platinum Jubilee Civic Honours Competition

I am pleased to say that the UK Government is today launching a civic honours competition to mark Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022.

As set out in my written statement, published today, this includes competitions for city status and Lord Mayor (or Provost) status.

City status and Lord Mayor (or Provost) status are civic honours granted by The Queen acting on the advice of Her ministers under the Royal Prerogative. The granting of both city status and Lord Mayor (or Provost) status are purely honorific and come with no additional funding or powers. Since the 1970s these awards have been granted through competitions and are usually held to coincide with Jubilee years, most recently for Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee in 2012.

Entry guidelines and an application form have been published on GOV.UK. In their applications, local authorities are being asked to give particular reference to their 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.

All local authorities across the United Kingdom who believe that their town or city deserves consideration for these honours are invited to apply. The city status competition will also be open to eligible applications from the Crown Dependencies and Overseas Territories. The closing date is 8 December 2021.

These honours are rare marks of distinction and the number of awards will depend on the strength of the applications received. I would warmly welcome your help in making sure we receive lots of applications from all across the United Kingdom, by encouraging local authorities to make an application if they should so wish.

Her Majesty The Queen will be the first British monarch to have reached 70 years on the throne. This is a truly historic moment for the country and it is right that we celebrate it.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Chloe', with a horizontal line underneath it. The signature is centered within a faint, circular, dotted border.

Chloe Smith MP
Minister of State for the Constitution and Devolution