

Date received:	21 st March 2024
Date responded:	9 th April 2024
Subject:	Application for City Status

Question:

Re Douglas Town Council – application for city status.

- 1. a) How b) when and c) why did it come to be proposed that application be made for city status?**
- 2. Please provide copy relevant Committee / Council Minutes / briefing notes / correspondence / emails / notes etc. relating to a) the application being submitted, and b) the then budgeted costs of achieving and becoming a city.**

Response:

In response to part 1 of your request, the first application for City Status was submitted in 2016 (the occasion of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's 90th birthday), with the agreement of the then-Council Leader and other Council Members. The Council was informed that there was not to be a competition for City Status that year.

The next competition was held in 2021, the occasion of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee. On this occasion, Crown Dependencies were included for the first time. The application was put in following agreement with the present Leader of the Council. Douglas Council was informed that they were successful in May 2022.

In response to part 2(a) of your request, please find enclosed copies of the relevant Committee reports, minutes and subsequent Council minutes in relation to the Council's application for City status.

In response to part 2(b) of your request, there was no specific budget allocated for achieving City status. Any costs associated to it were met within existing budgets. However, a budget of £27,000 for replacement of the 'Welcome to Douglas' signs was approved by the Executive Committee on 23rd June, 2022 with additional £5,000 being approved on 27th October 2022, totalling £32,000. The actual cost of the signs was £21,820 which was offset by a Department for Enterprise grant that was received by the Council on 28th September 2023 in the sum of £18,176 leaving a net amount of £3,644 which was funded from the General Revenue Reserve.