

Name of place applying:

**Elgin**

City status / Lord Mayor or Provost status:

**City Status**

Local authority:

**Moray**

Contact details of applicant:

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a) Summary

Please provide a summary of the application comprising no more than one A4 page.

Elgin is the capital of the county of Moray, in the Northeast of Scotland. It has a rich culture and history, with its own local dialect, Doric. Historically, it is a Royal Burgh, the site of Elgin Cathedral, and home to 29,000 individuals. Elgin lies between the Cairngorm National Park and the Moray Firth. Sited on the River Lossie, it consists of several suburbs, each with their own identities. Elgin continues to grow, with recent expansion in Glassgreen, and a new development in progress at Findrassie.

The inhabitants of Elgin take great pride in their local institutions, supporting 192 locally formed charities. Elgin is especially proud of the Elgin Museum, which is internationally renowned for its fossil collection, and nationally recognised for its archaeological collections.

Elgin has strong ties to nearby military bases, being home to both RAF Lossiemouth and Kinloss Barracks personnel. The people of Elgin have a strong belief that Elgin was once, but is no longer a city, with a history of City Provosts, and a large number of local institutions carrying Elgin City in their title (e.g. Elgin City football club, currently in Scottish League Division 2.), and a busy and effective Community Council, the City & Royal Burgh of Elgin Community Council. The Community Council, along with all Community Councils in Moray, is a member of the Joint Community Councils of Moray, which meets regularly to discuss and promote common themes, resolve difficulties and to lobby the Local Authority, other public agencies, and the Scottish Government for change when necessary. Elgin's Community Council was crucial to Elgin achieving Fair Trade status.

Located in the heart of Whisky country, more than 50% of Scotland's distilleries are within an hour's drive, and two within Elgin itself. Thanks to this, and to the attractive architecture, local amenities, and welcoming nature of its folk, Elgin is a popular tourist destination. Visitors to Elgin usually arrive via the A96 or the Elgin railway station which is the central point on the line between Aberdeen and Inverness.

Elgin is home to several large national employers, and home-grown businesses that export manufactured goods, luxury clothing, digital products, and several high value foodstuffs throughout the world. The largest employing sectors and their estimated regional share of employment in 2021 was public administration and defence 12.4%; Retail trade 8.9%; Education 8.6%; Human health activities 8.0% and Manufacture of food products 5.1%. The gross value-added measure of goods and services produced in Moray was forecast to be £2,160m. The highest value sectors were Manufacturing £710m, Real Estate activities £276m and Wholesale and Retail trade £199m. The contraction of economic output linked to Covid 19 measures was estimated to be 8.9%, which was lower than what occurred across Scotland between 2019 and 2020.

Moray College in the centre of Elgin, is part of the University of the Highlands & Islands. Nearly half of young people (49%) a quarter of these from Moray, saw the North-east and Moray as an extremely or very suitable place to work, study or train.

Elgin has numerous links to the Royal family, with many members being educated at Gordonstoun. Elgin can justly claim to be the birthplace to the Duke of Edinburgh Awards scheme, starting as the Moray Badge for children attending Elgin Academy and Gordonstoun. Several of the local charities have Royal patrons. 68 letters to Elgin addresses were issued by the Moray Lieutenancy in recognition and gratitude for Covid 19 work 'above and beyond,' out of 196 Moray-wide. 12 local groups in the last 9 years have received the Queens Award for Voluntary Service. 4 businesses have received the Queens Award for Enterprise, 3 for International Trade and 1 for sustainable development. 4 groups have received the Volunteer Friendly Award for excellence in management.

Elgin has many famous sons and daughters including bishops, inventors, linguists, Olympians, and the woman who campaigned for, and then became the first registered nurse.

Elgin is served by representatives from both the UK and Scottish Parliament. The local MSP is Richard Lochead Minister for Just Transition, Employment and Fair Work, and the Local MP is Douglas Ross, Leader of the Scottish Conservative Party.

Elgin, and the wider Moray region, will see further substantial investment through the Moray Growth Deal, which is a regional deal designed to boost economic growth across the region. The Moray Growth Deal includes 8 projects include a multi-million-pound investment in the Cultural Quarter in Elgin, to create a boost to culture and tourism showcasing the best of Moray's offering in food, drink, and textiles, as well as signposting visitors to attractions and activities across the area. Projects will also support the regeneration of Elgin's historic centre, through the creation of a contemporary Business Hub to provide services to boost local enterprises, and the development of the evening economy.

Elgin is a place of welcoming folk, with a historic legacy, strong identity, knowledge of its past, and ambition for its future. Returning city status on Elgin would send a strong message of support to an area that in the eyes of many residents, would right the wrong that was done to the City in 1975.

b) Introduction

Comprising no more than eight A4 pages of text, highlighting why the area deserves city status, with particular reference to the 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.

## Letter from the Lord Lieutenant of Moray

Elgin had City and Royal Burgh status for many centuries until 1975. It was first granted Royal Burgh status by King David 1 in the Twelfth Century. Elgin also has a Cathedral – ‘the Lantern of the North’ – long regarded as the qualification for city status. The former area of the County of Moray, much larger than it is today, was known as ‘Elginshire’ for many years, denoting Elgin’s pre-eminence in this area. Elgin is the acknowledged capital of the County of Moray, and of the Moray Council area of responsibility.

Elgin has for centuries been a centre for trade and business. It lies at the hub of a large area of fertile agricultural land bordered by the Moray Firth and the Grampian Mountains. It is a hugely attractive settlement and the River Lossie runs through it. It has good transport connections between the cities of Inverness to the west and Aberdeen to the east; and from the former port of Lossiemouth to the north and Aviemore to the south.

Today, the best-known businesses include Baxter’s and Walkers (food), Gordon & MacPhail and many distilleries in and around the town (whisky), Robertson’s and Springfield (construction) and Johnston’s (cashmere and wool) who have just been awarded their 4th QAE and hold the Royal Warrant. All have international reputations.

Elgin is the centre of Justice for the area and has the only Sheriff Court between Inverness and Aberdeen. It also has the largest college of The University of the Highlands and Islands: Moray College. This centre of learning is soon to be supplemented by a significant aeronautical college, which will be built next to RAF Lossiemouth, which neighbours Elgin.

Elgin has significant military connections. The 72nd Seaforth Highlanders (now part of the Royal Regiment of Scotland after a number of amalgamations) first paraded in Elgin in 1778. During the two World Wars it was the centre of enlistment and training in the area, and there is still an Army Reserve and Cadet Forces’ base in the town.

RAF Lossiemouth has been an RAF or RNAS station since the First World War. It was from Lossiemouth that 617 (The Dambuster) Squadron took off to sink the Tirpitz. After WW2, it was an RNAS base supporting the Royal Navy’s aircraft carriers. Having reverted to the RAF, it now has 4 Squadrons of Typhoon, and 2 Squadrons of Poseidon Maritime Patrol Aircraft. The first Poseidon is named the ‘Pride of Moray’ and the second ‘The City of Elgin’.

Many people of note have come to the fore over the years in Elgin: leading business leaders, politicians and those who reached high rank in the Armed Forces. Many have been recognised with Honours. Perhaps of especial note, as we praise our NHS, was Ethel Gordon Fenwick, she was born at Spynie House and spent her formative years there. She became a nurse, and she campaigned for nursing to be recognized as a profession, which culminated in the Nurses Recognition Act of 1919, which set up the General Nursing Council in 1920. Ethel became ‘Nurse Number One’. The International Council of Nurses was founded by Ethel, and today represents 20 million nurses worldwide.

There have been many Royal connections down the centuries. However, in recent times there has been the well-known link between nearby Gordonstoun School, the late Duke of Edinburgh, his children, and some grandchildren. Since 2014, in addition to visits to Gordonstoun, Her Majesty The Queen and no less than seven other members of the Royal Family have visited Elgin and nearby locations and groups including: RAF Lossiemouth, Moray College, Covesea Lighthouse, ‘Give them a Sporting Chance’ and ‘Step by Step’ charities, the Duke of Edinburgh Award’s 60th Anniversary, and the Rotary Club of Elgin.

The Duke of Edinburgh’s Award had its beginnings in the ‘Moray Badge’ started in 1937 as challenges for children at Gordonstoun, Elgin Academy, and many other Elgin and Moray Schools. This evolved into The Duke of Edinburgh’s Award scheme in 1956, which now encourages major participation for young people all over the world. There is a trail of plaques on stone plinths around Elgin marking key places where the Scheme was started. This year, the Lieutenancy and Moray Council are re-running the Moray Badge for schoolchildren as part of the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations, to encourage schoolchildren to engage in a wide variety of challenges after the restrictions of the pandemic.

During the pandemic the Moray Council has played a tremendous part in leading and supporting the communities in Moray. Working alongside it has been Health and Social Care Moray who have ensured the best treatment possible for all. Community and volunteer groups have been fantastic in their efforts to look after vulnerable families and individuals. There has been a tremendous spirit of looking after each other during this anxious period. As always, it is the people who are the beating heart of Moray.

I firmly believe that Elgin should have its city status restored. It is the centre of so much in this special ‘land in between’ the Cities of Inverness and Aberdeen. It qualifies and deserves to be a city again on so many counts. I strongly support this bid.

*Major General The Hon Seymour Monro, CBE, LVO*

There has always been a dispute as to whether Elgin is a town or a city. When Daniel Defoe visited in 1717, on his tour of Scotland, he was of the city persuasion writing:

*"In this rich country is the city, or town rather, of Elgin; I say city, because in antient time the monks claim'd it for a city; and the cathedral shews, by its ruins, that it was a place of great magnificence. Nor must it be wonder'd at, if in so pleasant, so rich, and so agreeable a part of the country, all the rest being so differing from it, the clergy should seat themselves in a proportion'd number, seeing we must do them the justice to say, that if there is any place richer and more fruitful, and pleasant than another, they seldom fail to find it out. As the country is rich and pleasant, so here are a great many rich inhabitants, and in the town of Elgin in particular; for the gentlemen, as if this was the Edinburgh, or the court, for this part of the island, leave their Highland habitations in the winter and come and live here for the diversion of the place and plenty of provisions; and there is, on this account, a great variety of gentlemen for society, and that of all parties and of all opinions. This makes Elgin a very agreeable place to live in, notwithstanding its distance, being above 450 measur'd miles from London, and more, if we must go by Edinburgh."*

Defoe's figure is accurate enough. London is 443 miles as the crow flies, but 545 miles by road. Visitors would also agree that it is pleasant and fruitful. Because of its unique situation, from Elgin it is possible to beach-comb in the morning, enjoy a picnic in the park, and ski in the afternoon; the local belief in a 'micro-climate' and the possibility of four seasons in one day, make this more than possible.

However, for those of us who live in Elgin, the question as to whether Elgin is a city is less clear. Elgin has an (albeit ruined) cathedral; it was made a Royal Burgh; its history includes a long line of Provosts; it has a football team, Elgin City; it has a long and proud military tradition; it used to be the county town of Elginshire; it was the terminus of no less than three independent railways.

Elgin would not be the smallest city in the UK, with its burgeoning population, and suburbs with their own distinct identities (Bishopmill, New Elgin, Lesmurdie, Little Canada, Linkwood, Glass Green, Findrassie).

## Distinct Identity

Elgin's identity is a result of geography, history, culture, and the nature of the people who live there.

Elgin has a historically important history. There were settlements in Elgin from neolithic times: Quarrelwood is home to a henge, dated 2,500 to 2,000BC, and a Pictish Stone, the Elgin Pillar, was discovered under the high street in 1823. However, the first documentary evidence for Elgin may have been in the charter of 1136 of David I of Scotland, from which, until its abolition in 1975, Elgin Town Council could trace its origins through a line of Provosts. Elgin therefore has been a centre of administration and local government for nearly 900 years.

Elgin, unsurprisingly then, is the hub of Moray. Protected by the Cairngorm Mountains to the South and the fertile Laich O'Moray and the Moray Firth to the North, it was founded as a settlement on the south side of the River Lossie, and despite growth over the centuries to absorb surrounding villages and hamlets, the river continues to form its backbone, remaining a powerful force within Elgin.

The devastating floods between 1997 and 2009 necessitated the major award-winning flood alleviation scheme, which was finished in 2016. Even before completion, it managed to prevent an estimated £29 millions of damages to homes and businesses in the 2014 floods. Now completed, the scheme includes design features that protect and enhance the habitats along the banks, creating a wonderful public space – a green cycling and walking corridor that enables people to traverse Elgin safely, encourages exercise, and provides oases of calm for quiet contemplation, right through the middle of Elgin.

## Elgin, the City on the River Lossie

Flowing West to East, it enters Elgin south of the Quarrelwood, then on into Elgin proper. It provides water to the Glen Moray distillery, before passing below Elgin Academy, it loops back towards Dr Gray's hospital, skirts round Ladyhill, the Duke of Gordon monument and castle ruins, and then along by the Moray Leisure centre, under the Bishopmil bridges, around the Cooper Park, past the Cathedral and the Woollen mill, and finally rushes past the industrial estates on its way to the sea, at Lossiemouth. It is a journey past many important pieces that fit together to make Elgin that "richer and more fruitful, and pleasant" place to live and work.

## Glen Moray Distillery

First on the Lossie's itinerary then, as with many of Elgin's tourists, is the Glen Moray Distillery. Close by is Glen Elgin, which was designed by distillery architect Charles Doig of Elgin. How many places can claim not one, but two distilleries as their own?

Charles Doig was the designer of the pagoda-like Doig Ventilators, originally designed as a kiln chimney which attracted air from all directions to provide a better 'draw' for the fire beneath. It had the advantage of being considerably more attractive than a simple pipe, and its curved pyramidal shape is now the signature look of distilleries throughout the Scottish whisky industry.

From an architectural point of view, thanks to the availability of local sandstone quarried from along the coast near Hopeman or inland at Birnie, and wealth returned to the UK during the 19th century, there are a

surprising number of substantial buildings in Georgian, classical, and Italianate styles, all in a warm, sunny, golden stone.

### Dr Gray's Hospital

A prime example of the architecture on display in Elgin is at the next stop along the Lossie's route: Dr Gray's Hospital. Dr Alexander Gray, a native of Elgin, worked as a surgeon for the East India Company. On his death, in 1807, he left £20,000 'for the establishment of a hospital in Elgin for the sick and poor of the county of Murray (Moray)'. The main building, sited where the A96 enters Elgin from the West, is built in the classical style with Doric columns, clock tower, and dome. It was opened in 1819, and it continues to dominate the skyline.

It's a fine building to look at, but along with the rest of Elgin, progress isn't on hold. Following a comprehensive review of acute health care services in Moray a £22 million, architecturally sympathetic redevelopment was completed in 1997, followed by a further £3 million update in 2013. The hospital now provides 185 inpatient beds, and an almost complete range of specialisms: geriatric assessment, gynaecology, medicine, obstetrics, ophthalmology, orthopaedics, paediatrics, and surgery. A full range of support services including anaesthetics, dietetics, laboratories, occupational therapy, pharmacy, physiotherapy, and x-ray are on-site, along with an acute psychiatric ward and a new accident and emergency building.

A visitor to the hospital can't fail to be aware of the strong support from the local community, with the hospital shop being run by the RVS. A sensory garden was opened in 2010 to provide patients, visitors and staff with an attractive place to relax. A public appeal in the 1990s raised more than £1 million to purchase the first CT scanner for the region. NHS Grampian are in the planning application stage for an MRI scanner to be added as part of a £56million project to reduce waiting times across the region.

### Elgin Academy & Schools

Next on the river's agenda is Elgin Academy. The Academy is the largest school in Moray, with a history going back to the Middle Ages. The first school was built on the adjacent corners of Academy Street and Francis Place, now the site of the local youth cafe. It moved to a larger site in 1801, on the site that is now Moray College. By the mid-1960's this proved too small for Elgin's growing population, and a move to the current site, on Morriston Road, on a hill above the Lossie, opened in 1969. In April 2012, the new £30 Million building, with a capacity of 1050 pupils was opened, with teaching and learning facilities for all subjects currently taught in the curriculum, and flexible provision to allow for different forms of teaching and future development of the curriculum. Along with a dedicated community space, the indoor sports facilities include a large games hall, gymnasium, dance studio and fitness room, while outdoor facilities include a full size floodlit 2G synthetic pitch, two grass pitches and a six lane grass running track.

Despite the expansion in 1969, the growing population of a southern suburb, New Elgin, ensured demand for an additional secondary school, and Elgin High School opened in August 1978, serving south Elgin and the adjoining rural areas of Longmorn, Birnie and Milnathort. In May 1996, Kestrel House was opened as an annex to the school for a small number of pupils with profound and complex learning difficulties.

### Ladyhill & Elgin Castle

After the Academy, the Lossie now passes behind Ladyhill, the site of both the Duke of Gordon monument, and the ruins of Elgin Castle. The castle was originally a motte and bailey construction, and certainly in use by 1160, when it appears as a royal castle, and was probably founded by David I in association with the creation of Elgin as a Royal Burgh in that year, well before the decision to move the cathedral to the town.

### Royal Connections

Elgin has always had Royal connections. After an inauspicious start (The death in August 1040 of Duncan I at Macbeth's hands, at Pitgaveny, on the outskirts of Elgin), Alexander II made Elgin a Royal Burgh around 1160, and from then on Elgin was a required stop on many a Royal Tour: Alexander III, Edward I & II, James II, James IV, Bonnie Prince Charlie, Queen Victoria (\_Queen Victoria's Royal Train At Elgin\_ is a drawing by Illustrated London News Ltd - visiting Dunrobin, 1872), and Princess Alexandra, all made official visits to Elgin. HRH The Queen and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh visited in 1961 and planted two trees outside the Council offices. The late Duke of Edinburgh was very familiar with Elgin, as he boarded and thrived as a pupil at the nearby Gordonstoun School. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award started in 1937 as the 'Moray Badge', for children at Elgin Academy, and Gordonstoun. Almost all of HRH the Queen's children attended Gordonstoun.

### Elgin High Street

Ladyhill signals the start of the High Street, and the Castle-Cathedral-Cashmere tourist trail. The view east from the top lays Elgin High Street out before you, dominated by St Giles Church. With its combs and wynds, this part is the "planned" burgh of medieval Elgin and represents 1,000 years of history. The High Street is always bustling, with the central pedestrianised portion around the St Giles Kirk, known as the Plainstones, used for Christmas gatherings, the farmer's market, and the annual Remembrance Day service. Thanks in

part to the Elgin BID scheme, it has retained many small shops with distinct identities, including both the oldest continuously trading butchers' and book shops in Scotland.

### Moray Leisure Centre

From Ladyhill, the river now passes the first of Elgin's two sports and leisure complexes. The Moray Leisure Centre houses a swimming pool, sauna, gym and fitness studio, and an ice-rink, with a full-time nursery on-site. For the truly fitness minded patron, The Centre is accessible from the bicycle path that runs along the river.

The river then runs alongside Borough Briggs, one of the most northerly football league grounds in the UK, and home to Elgin City Football Club. Known as 'City' or 'The Black and Whites', the club, formed in 1893, currently play in Scottish League Division Two.

### Elgin Town Hall

Across the Lossie Green car park sits Elgin Town Hall. This is the central venue in Elgin, home to theatre and operatic productions, comedy shows, exhibitions, model railway fairs, providing space for a plethora of local activities: over 60's groups, community council meetings, social services, food banks, language lessons, singing groups, blood donation, tea dances, bereavement groups, faith groups, and music lessons. It is especially proud to house the Out of the Darkness Theatre Company, which works with learning disabled people and those with complex and profound needs. Founded in 1992 as a voluntary organization, today it is an independent full time professional theatre company with registered charitable status. The Town Hall will soon benefit as part of Elgin's tranche of the Moray Growth deal, with additional UHI classrooms, multimedia suites, art rooms and a small cinema planned.

### The Cooper Park

The river now flows alongside the Cooper Park, under the foot and road bridges that separate central Elgin from the suburb of Bishopmill. Elgin's Cooper Park has something for everyone, although most visitors tend to remember the 'Cooper Park Lake', a boating lake with two islands intended to represent a map of Britain. Nearby is a large children's play area with adjacent tennis courts. A ceremonial avenue of trees will be planted in 2022 in honour of the Queens Platinum Jubilee.

The public library can be found in the park. The library holds over 50 books, specifically related to Elgin's history. The building is a mixture of old and modern, incorporating the old Drill Hall of the 6th (Morayshire) Battalion, the Seaforth Highlanders, and includes computing facilities, as well as a cafe where Elgin folk can share a "cuppie o' tea" and a view of the lake and pedestrian life as it passes. There is a plaque on the Drill Hall commemorating the Colours Parade in 1986 when we were honoured by the attendance of HRH the Duke of Edinburgh.

### Museum

Before the A96 bypass, the park was effectively home to the Elgin Museum, opened in 1843, it is one of the oldest independent museums in the country and was Museum of the year 1990. The Museum houses a wonderful group of collections covering a vast amount geology, ethnography, art, and local history.

The Museum's fossil collection is recognised as of National Significance. As Dr Nick Fraser, (Keeper of Natural Sciences, National Museums Scotland) puts it: "The Palaeozoic fish collections and the Palaeozoic and Mesozoic reptiles are world-renowned. The collections and the volunteer staff represent a remarkable asset to the international paleontological community, and we have relied upon the support of the museum's knowledgeable volunteers for decades. Elgin Museum is a vibrant community adding to the quality of life in Moray. It is a remarkable resource for local schools and a significant tourist attraction."

Archaeology is another of the Museum's strong areas; the Pictish and Early Medieval Carved stones are a highlight. Importantly, as an Accredited Museum, Elgin is allowed to receive objects claimed as Treasure Trove and has active engagement with local detectorists and the Treasure Trove Unit, including for example, the local Birnie hoard: artefacts and Roman coins predating the Roman invasion of Scotland by Septimius Severus (208 AD). In the words of Dr Fraser Hunter, Principal Curator Iron Age & Roman Collections, National Museum of Scotland "this museum is much more than its collections. It has held its own, providing a great asset for locals and visitors alike to Elgin. The museum is a model for what wonderful cultural treasure-houses local enthusiasm and commitment can create."

The Museum organises conferences to share new scientific findings with the public, bringing together academics and amateurs to celebrate Elgin's significant archaeological and geological heritage.

As with many of Elgin's institutions, the local volunteers who manage it, run the Museum with particular emphasis on the young. There are no admission charges plus school and family events are free. In the Covid context, many mitigations have been achieved to allow limited public access to resume; these have been complemented by a significant enhancement of 'virtual' offerings and use of social media.

## The Council Offices

Before resuming the course of the river, the group of buildings opposite are worthy of note: The Moray Council Offices, and the Sheriff Court House. From 1890, Elgin was the headquarters first for the Moray and Nairn County Council and its successor, Moray and Nairn Joint County Council until they were abolished in 1975. Between 1975 and 1996, Elgin was the Headquarters of Moray District Council which replaced Elgin Town Council as one of five District Council's within the Grampian area, as part of a two-tier system of District and Regional Councils. Although headquartered in Aberdeen, Grampian Regional Council had divisional offices in Elgin, for education, roads and transportation, social work, assessor and electoral registration. In 1996, single tier or unitary local authorities replaced the two-tier regional and district councils, and The Moray Council, again headquartered in Elgin, was created. Additionally, the complex houses the Offices of the Procurator Fiscal and the Elgin Sheriff Court. Notably this is the only Sherriff Court between Inverness and Aberdeen.

## Cathedral

But Elgin has played a leading role as an administrative centre, long before the eras of councils and parliaments. Returning to the course of the river our next port of call is Elgin Cathedral.

The "Lantern of the North" as it was known, was consecrated in 1224 and destroyed by the 'Wolf of Badenoch' in 1390. It was rebuilt but fell into ruin by 1711. Large parts remain intact or restored, and fantastic views over Elgin are available from the top of the tower. The cathedral is now maintained by Historic Environment Scotland and forms a venue for concerts and outdoor theatre events. The stunning octagonal Chapter House is now available as a wedding venue. Imagine being wed in a 13th century wedding venue!

Alongside the Cathedral is the peaceful Biblical Garden, originally funded by the community, and now run by volunteers. It is now a tourist attraction, horticulture learning, and training facility supported by an active Friends committee. Open to the public daily from May to September, admission is free, it features 110 plants mentioned in the bible, and is a lovely setting for a picnic with the family.

The river now passes under the last three bridges in Elgin, two footbridges, and the newly built road bridge. It's at this point where we can see evidence of Elgin's manufacturing past and present.

## Johnstons Woollen Mill

Founded in 1797, Johnstons of Elgin is the last mill in Scotland to transform raw fibres into beautiful homeware and clothing items, right on the banks of the River Lossie. It was granted the Royal Warrant of Appointment to the Duke of Rothesay, as manufacturers of Estate Tweed woollen fabric in 2013, and is world famous for its Cashmere and Wool garments. (Behind the existing woollen mill, lies the site of the Newmill of Elgin Foundry. Although it closed in the late '70s, you can still find 'Made in Elgin' manhole covers to this day. And as you'll see shortly, that's not the end of Elgin's industrial heritage.

## Anderson's

Elgin has a history of social care organised from within the community, again courtesy of a benefactor from the East India Company. Lieutenant General Andrew Anderson died in 1824, leaving £70,000 to the town to found an institution for the welfare of the elderly poor and for the education of orphans. In 1832, The Anderson Institution was completed in the east-end of the town with accommodation for 50 children and ten elderly people.

"Anderson's" classical sandstone building bookends the A96's run through Elgin, where it continues to provide care for the elderly as a modern residential home, offering a high standard of quality care in a pleasant and friendly environment for 56 residents from Elgin and the surrounding area. Donations from community benefactors have been used to carry out modernisation and refurbishment of the home.

## Industry

As the river and the A96 unite to leave Elgin, they pass by Elgin's Moycroft, Pinefield, and Tyock industrial estates, and the new Elgin Business Park. Amongst the larger well-known employers in Elgin, such as Walkers, Diageo, and Johnston's, there are many successful local companies: Springfield Properties (£215m EBITA), have recently acquired Inverness-based house builder Tulloch for £56.4m; Hendry Hydraulics (£12.3m EBITA) has recently expanded to 60,000 sq. ft. of manufacturing, and 30,000 sq. ft. of material storage; Hunted Cow Studios (Total-Assets £4M) whose computer games are played by more than five million players across desktop PC's and mobile devices; and Gordon & MacPhail who celebrated its 125th anniversary in 2020, as the World's Leading Malt Whisky Specialist, and whose retail shop on South Street has one of the largest collections of whisky in the world. Robertson's, the house builder was also first established in Elgin.

## Elgin Folk & Culture

To describe the people in Elgin a word? Welcoming. Visitors to Elgin are often surprised by the welcome they receive. Despite its size, and the growth of the last two decades, strangers will still say hello to you in the



street, shop assistants will still recommend 'rival' shops if they can't help, and drivers will wave at each other as they give way on a narrow road.

More than that; whilst there are obviously 'old Elgin families' the idea of the incomer is not something one encounters in everyday life. Over the years Elgin has welcomed waves of new folk, mostly from the armed forces. Parts of Little Canada and Bishopmill are given over to family housing for military personnel from nearby RAF Lossiemouth or the Kinloss Army base. Retirees from the armed forces, often choose to retire to Elgin, once their tours are over. And they are welcomed as fellow Elgin folk.

There is a strong local culture in Elgin, with lots of community and charity support. You can still dance to exhaustion at Ceilidhs, enjoy a gossip at coffee mornings, listen to Elgin's Brass Band and be entertained at Burns nights or the annual Bothy Ballads. Since 1983, this event fills Elgin Town Hall to capacity and crucially supports and strengthens the Doric culture. Doric is the distinct local dialect, and there is a tremendous pride in it.

There are many other annual events in the Elgin calendar, the bulk of which are supported in some way by the Rotary Club and Rotaract. The biannual Marafun marathon, with 125 teams each with 5 relay runners, has raised over £750,000 for major community causes including the Moray Scanner Appeal, Princess Royal Trust for Carers, the MacMillan Hospice Appeal. The Motorfun started as part of the Queen's Golden Jubilee Celebrations in 2002 and attracts crowds of over 15,000. With stalls, entertainers, fun fair attractions, displays of new and classic cars and a 'show and shine' of young peoples' cars, this has become a highlight of the calendar, bringing businesses, local organisations, volunteers, and the community together in the Cooper Park. And come November, it also hosts the annual Fireworks Display.

That Elgin is a vibrant community, proud also of its relationship with HM Armed Forces is evidenced by its support for community events. These have included the Holding Hands for Heroes initiative in September 2010, when a human chain of over 5,000 stretching from the gates of RAF Lossiemouth to Elgin and raised over £10,000 for the Help For Heroes Fund. There have been concerts by The Band of the Royal Marines in 2010, 2011 and 2013 which filled Elgin Town Hall and again raised significant funds for forces charities.

Work by local charities, such as the Step by Step (a Queen's award holder, who support vulnerable families with children aged 0-3), Kieran's Legacy (which has funded 93 defibrillators), and the other 190 local Elgin charities, underlines the vibrancy of Elgin's, strong community support and civic pride.

### Famous Elgin Folk

Many notable individuals have influenced Elgin's growth and national contribution and, in turn, Elgin has provided and continues to provide inspiration for writers, entrepreneurs, sportspeople and many others. Elgin's many famous sons and daughters including:

Jessie Kesson, celebrated author who grew up in the closes around Ladyhill and who wrote about her life experiences; John Grant, bagpipe musician and composer; Margaret Masson Hardie Hasluck M.B.E. was a Scottish geographer, linguist, epigrapher, archaeologist and scholar; Lieutenant-Colonel William Rennie, recipient of the Victoria Cross; Mario Conti, Roman Catholic Archbishop Emeritus of Glasgow; Kevin McKidd well-known actor and director; Stephen Pressley, Scotland football international; Lesley Souter, the first female electrical engineer graduate from the University of Glasgow; Gary Robertson, BBC Scotland Broadcaster; Leslie Benzies, video game designer and producer, best known for his lead development role in the smash hit game Grand Theft Auto; Ethel Gordon Fenwick, 'Nurse No 1', who campaigned to procure a nationally recognised certificate for nursing, to safeguard the title "Nurse", and lobbied Parliament to pass a law to control nursing and limit it to "registered" nurses only; Helen Rebecca Jenkins, Two-time Triathlon World Champion (2008 & 2011), representing Team GB at the Olympic Games (2008, 2012 & 2016) and World Championships (since 2009).

Visitors and residents have included writers Daniel Defoe and Samuel Johnson; 19th Century poet laureate Robert Southey; and teacher and inventor Alexander Graham Bell, who taught for a period in Elgin at Weston House and whose name was used for the new UHI training and conference centre.

### What do the people of Elgin say?

"Developing the Young Workforce Moray and Northeast conducted a survey over the Summer of 2021 to understand young people's views on the region in terms of opportunities such as career pathways. The response was very positive. Nearly half of young people (49%) a quarter of these from Moray, saw the Northeast and Moray as an extremely or very suitable place to work, study or train. "I feel Elgin as a City would be beneficial because we are sometimes lost between Aberdeen and Inverness on many initiatives and funding opportunities so giving us this recognition may improve young people's views of working, studying, and training in the region further. It could bring more opportunities to our doorstep and save on expenses like travel but also give Elgin & Moray the recognition it deserves." - Sarah Barnes, Manager, DYW Moray

"It's exciting to see Elgin bidding to become Scotland's next city as part of the jubilee competition. It shows ambition for the community and recognises the role that Elgin has played in our country's history." - Richard Lochhead MSP

"I believe Elgin should be given 'City' status for many reasons. Elgin is steeped in a rich and varied history, boasting fine historic buildings and architecture, such as Elgin Cathedral, St. Giles' Church, Duke of Gordon's Monument, and Dr. Gray's Hospital, to name but a few. With a multicultural population of well over 20,000, Elgin encompasses a wide range of amenities, educational establishments, sporting facilities, shops, and attractions to suit all. Elgin is situated at the heart of Moray, a region with beautiful scenery, great historical importance, the home of luxury manufacturers – many of which are holders of the Royal Warrant – the home of the world-famous Scottish whisky, and one of Scotland's keys and most popular tourism areas. By granting Elgin the status of 'City', it can ensure that the area and surrounding areas thrive for generations to come." - *Phillip Wood, 20 years old*

"I think Elgin deserves city status because it is home to a large, diverse community and its own cathedral, historical sites, business parks, shopping centre, football club and stadium, hospital, schools and so much more." - *Jack Granitza, Member of the Scottish Youth Parliament for Moray*

"I like Elgin because there are a huge range of different shops available, from clothing to food shops. There are so many great sights to see including the Cathedral and The Duke of Gordon's Monument. I think Elgin should be given official city status because it can help to attract more and more visitors." - *Emma Milton, 17 years old*

"Elgin's rich history forms an integral part of Scotland's past and it feels only right that it is given the recognition it deserves by becoming a city." - *Cllr Shona Morrison, Convener, Moray Council*

"I think Moray is a beautiful place for any age. It is full of hope, talent and opportunities for anyone in any sector of work or after school activity. Whether you are or what you would like to do for leisure or work, Moray will have something for you." - *Aidan Henderson, 18 years old*

"I'm getting right behind the bid for Elgin to receive city status. Elgin has many historical links to this title and it would be fitting for Moray to be home to a city as well as our many varied towns, villages and communities." - *Douglas Ross MP*

"For me, Elgin is the heart of Moray! You can go in any direction from Elgin and reach a beach, forest, mountain or a distillery. Over the years, Elgin has expanded in terms of housing, education and businesses and with the Moray Growth Deal, there is even more to come. Demonstrating to Moray young people that Elgin, Moray is a great place to work, stay and play." - *Aimee Stephen, 21 years*

"It has been a joy over the past 400 years to have carried Elgin as our family earldom.

I will never forget a duty, which I took in 1948 from Johnstons to carry to Elgin, Illinois, a tartan sash for the Mayor and Chairman of the Elgin National Watch Company.

Today Elgin is very much at the heart of industrial and whisky production and well deserves City status." -

***The Rt Hon The Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, KT (aged 97)***

### c) Profile

Please provide details of the profile of the area, including statistics, to assist understanding of the area and its bid in comparison to the bids of other applicants. Information which it would be helpful to include would be:

The resident population of the area;

- Economic activity, including the number of people who work (but do not reside) in the area;
- Information on public green spaces, sport and leisure facilities, and shopping centres; and
- Information on local authority support (of any kind) for the voluntary sector.

The profile should comprise no more than ten A4 pages (including numbers, any tables and graphics).

Moray has a diverse economy, which is particularly strong in the manufacturing, food and drink, agriculture and tourism sectors. The region is home to more than half of Scotland's whisky distilleries, as well as international brands such as Walkers Shortbread, Baxters and Johnstons of Elgin. As Moray's administrative and commercial centre, Elgin has a vital position within the Moray economy. Due to its' central location and as the region's largest population centre, Elgin serves as Moray's social and cultural capital.

The Ministry of Defence (MOD) is a significant employer in the region. Elgin is the main town supporting the large and growing Armed Forces presence in Moray at RAF Lossiemouth and Kinloss Barracks. There are over six hundred Service Families Accommodation properties and increasing numbers of personnel taking advantage of new housing construction to purchase their own homes and settle. Elgin is the thriving hub that provides all the supports this growing military population requires. Active in all local community, sports and charitable activities, the Armed Forces are an extremely valued and welcome part of the wider community with the Military spouse and the Service Leaver all contributing to a vibrant and skilled talent pool for local employers. There is also a community centre in Bishopmill that supports a youth club for service families.

Moray is home to RAF Lossiemouth, one of the most active stations in the Royal Air Force, and Kinloss Barracks, base for the Army's 39 Royal Engineers (Air Support). RAF Lossiemouth has seen significant investment and expansion in recent years, with the number of service personnel grown to over 2,200. RAF Lossiemouth is currently experiencing a period of growth and multi-million-pound investment in its facilities to support its frontline operational output securing the skies and protecting the seas of the United Kingdom 24/7/365. Sitting alongside the existing 4 front-line Typhoon Squadrons and the fleet of 8 (soon to be 9) Poseidon P8A Maritime Patrol Aircraft, this base will see in 2022 the arrival of the UK's new E7 Wedgetail capability and will see RAF strength alone sit close to 3,000 personnel. With major presence of Defence partners such as Boeing and BAE Systems and a growing civil service, RAF Lossiemouth is a major employer that is a direct contributor to the economic success of the region. NATO partners for major exercises also use the base with its location providing ease of access to the challenging training environments. These International troops use Elgin for their accommodation and supports, generating a steady income outwith the tourist season for the local hospitality sector.

Elgin, and the wider Moray region, will see further substantial investment through the Moray Growth Deal, which is a regional deal designed to boost economic growth across the region. Led by Moray Council, the programme is supported by Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Moray College UHI, along with partners from the public and third sectors, and private businesses within the area.

The Moray Growth Deal includes 8 projects designed to strengthen the Moray economy, ensuring it is an attractive place for young people to live and work, while addressing issues such as gender inequality in employment. Projects will support the regeneration of Elgin's historic centre, through the creation of a contemporary Business Hub to provide services to boost local enterprises, and the development of the evening economy. The multi-million-pound investment includes investment in the Cultural Quarter in Elgin, to create a dynamic and vibrant area to boost culture and tourism showcasing the best of Moray's offering in food, drink and textiles, as well as signposting visitors to attractions and activities across the area. The Cultural Quarter recognises the significant role of Elgin as the capital city of Moray and of Elgin as a destination. The Town Hall has been managed by a community trust for a number of years now, and has successfully attracted a range of performers, attracting the local audience base and supporting the development of a vibrant night time economy. Its redevelopment will create a multi-use theatre and performance space with rehearsal and meeting rooms for local groups.

Adjacent to this space is Grant Lodge, another key historical building sited in the wonderful green space of Cooper Park. This will be transformed into a high-quality visitor attraction to showcase Moray's food and drink heritage.

In the Moray Growth Deal the largest employing sectors and their estimated regional share of employment in 2021 was: public administration and defence 12.4%; Retail trade 8.9%; Education 8.6%; Human health activities 8.0% and Manufacture of food products 5.1%. The gross value-added measure of goods and services produced in Moray was forecast to be £2,160m. The highest value sectors were Manufacturing £710m, Real Estate activities £276m and Wholesale and Retail trade £199m. The contraction of economic output linked to Covid 19 measures was estimated to be 8.9% which was lower than what occurred across Scotland between 2019 and 2020. (SDS July 2021)

## Current Employment

Total employment in the Moray Growth Deal (measured by people) was estimated to be 40500 in 2021. The employment rate for the working age population (aged 1-64) in the region for 2020 was 75.3%, which is above the rate for Scotland (73.5%).

“The social enterprise sector in Moray is innovative, dynamic and diverse.” David Bryan Head of Sustainable Business, the Social Enterprise Academy.

<b>Stock Profile - Elgin Housing Market Area</b>		
<b>Tenure</b>	<b>No of dwellings</b>	<b>%</b>
Owned	12,876*	61.0%
Council	2,938	13.9%
Housing Association	1,323	6.3%
Private rent	2,637*	12.5%
MOD	617	2.9%
<b>Total occupied</b>	<b>20,391</b>	<b>96.6%</b>
Vacant	588	2.8%
Second home	136	0.6%
<b>Total unoccupied</b>	<b>724</b>	<b>3.4%</b>
<b>Total properties</b>	<b>21,115</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

\* Estimated

Source: Moray Housing Need and Demand Assessment 2017 (as of April 2017)

Elgin has proportionally more detached/semi-detached/terraced dwellings and fewer flats than the Scottish average. Very little housing stock in Elgin exceeds 2 storeys.

There has been significant new house building in Elgin over the last 10 years and this continues. On average 300-350 new homes are built in Elgin per year across all tenures.

Pressure on availability of Moray's housing is greatest in Elgin in all tenures. This means this is the area of least affordability in Moray, set in the context of historically low average earnings.

As of December 2021, there were 3,048 affordable homes in Elgin, 1,929 owned by Moray Council and 1,119 owned by a combination of 6 Housing Associations.

## Property Breakdown within Elgin 2020

Reference Area	Band											Total Dwellings
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	A-C	D-E	F-H	
Elgin City North	1187	2171	678	632	817	306	104	4	4036	1449	414	<b>5899</b>
Elgin City South	848	1699	1016	839	867	336	110	3	3563	1706	449	<b>5718</b>
<b>Total</b>	2035	3870	1694	1471	1684	642	214	7	7599	3155	863	<b>11617</b>

Reference Area	Population Estimates 2020
Elgin City North	12202
Elgin City South	12239
<b>Total</b>	<b>24441</b>

Source: Dwellings by Council Tax Band 2020 from the National Records of Scotland.

## Education & Life-long Learning

There are 2 modern Secondary Schools and 9 Primary Schools within the Elgin Associated School Groups accommodating 1791 and 2280 pupils respectively. Over the next 6 years we will have two new 450 capacity Primary Schools (with associated Nurseries) in operation in North (Findrassie) and South Elgin (Glassgreen). Children with additional needs receive the support they require within mainstream schools. Approximately 38% of pupils are recognised as having additional support needs, which is slightly higher than the national average. Currently there are 53 languages spoken by pupils with English as an additional language. Moray is a Scottish Attainment Challenge Universal programme local authority. In the last 5 year all schools in Elgin have received Rights Respecting School awards status. Elgin High School has a Sports Scotland Silver Award and Elgin Academy is a SCQF Ambassador school, is Autism Accredited and has a Green Eco Schools Award.

Previously Moray had no Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation decile 1, however, school profiles have notably changed from last year with families now living in decile 1 following Scottish Government reclassification. Four areas in Moray are ranked about the most deprived in Scotland, New Elgin being one of them. Cost of the school day work has revealed that 23% of Morays children are living in poverty and schools are making steady progress to support pupils and families. 9.8% of pupils are registered for free school meals. Our Locality Networks use local intelligence to strengthen support for children and families as the impact of the pandemic emerges. The Locality Networks include community groups from each area who are committed to working with council services to respond effectively and appropriately to the emerging needs of children, young people and families in each locality. Multi-agency Support Hubs operate in localities to support the named person and team around the child to identify appropriate and local supports for the child and family as an early intervention strategy.

The percentage of Looked after children school leavers (2019-20) who entered a positive destination was 84.2% as compared to the national average of 81.4%. of those Moray leavers going into a positive destination 75% went on to a Further Education course, with the remaining leavers entering either Employment, Higher Education, Training or a Personal Skills Development course.

Data for Broad General Education (BGE) attainment in literacy and numeracy indicates a 4-year trend of improvement in attainment for Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) levels. Pupil Equity Funding is being creatively utilised to provide a range of targeted interventions to improve reading, writing and mathematics. A review was undertaken across Moray Secondary Schools of the offer and range of qualifications across SQA and SCQF levels to meet the needs of all learners. As a result,

over 220 curriculum choices were identified as being available across Moray with additionality being provided by Moray College UHI through 43 wider qualification and courses. 85% of settings currently meet Care Inspectorate National Standard of 4 or above.

As the SQA Examination diet was cancelled for 2020, an alternative model for certification was introduced whereby schools and practitioners were required to work together and gather demonstrated and inferred evidence on candidate performance to determine estimated grades.

Key Performance Improvements are highlighted as follows:

<b>Key Performance Improvements are highlighted as follows:</b>	<b>2018/2019</b>	<b>2019/2020</b>
S4: % pupils attaining level 4 Literacy and Numeracy	78.9%	86.7%
S4: % pupils attaining level 5 Literacy and Numeracy	46.2%	53.6%
Leavers: % pupils attaining level 4 Literacy and Numeracy	84.9%	86.3%
Leavers: % pupils attaining level 4 Numeracy	87.2%	88.3%
Leavers: % achieving 5+ @ SCQF5	61.6%	61.9%
Leavers: % achieving 5+ @ SCQF6	29.5%	34.2%
Proportion of pupils entering Positive Destinations	92.8%	93.1%
% Participation for 16-19 year old	91.3%	93.5%

Source: NIF 2021 Moray Self Evaluation p14

“Our Moray Standard for learning and teaching” was revised in 2021 with a focus on remote learning and teaching to support practitioner confidence and planning materials. An aid memoire is included in the photos section.

Elgin Youth Development Group was established in 1998 to provide a place for young people to meet and socialise. Recognised nationally in 2019 as the YouthLink Scotland Community Based Youth Work Project of the Year it provides a youth café and social enterprise offering accommodation, community kitchen and catering facilities. Fundamental to the ethos is preparing young people with real experience of the world of

work within a supportive environment and so a partnership agreement was reached to host Moray Pathways and the employability hub in the building in July 2021. Moray Pathways is a single point of contact for individuals, businesses and organisations, offering a range of guidance, training, mentoring and supports. This is particularly important currently as people cope with the pandemic and overcoming barriers. A Summer 2021 survey by Developing the Young Workforce to understand young people's views on the region in terms of opportunities and career pathways found that 49% saw the Northeast and Moray as an extremely or very suitable place to work, study or train. Only 12% thought otherwise. This is a positive and changing picture, which traditionally saw young people leave the area.

Since opening, the employability hub has seen consistently increasing usage by its 50+ partners and the people they support. We have created an inviting and safe space for people to access support for whatever barriers they have to employment. To date, over 150 people have been through the doors (on track for hitting a target of 500 by next summer); over 95% of them returning for wider support, including a range of bespoke provision developed to meet the need. Whilst it is a Moray wide provision, 42% have been from Elgin – including some who have just popped in to see what we're up to. All partners have reported a significant reduction of missed appointments or disengagement due primarily to the environment. The café custom also benefits young people on their employability journey as all profits go back into youth work provision. There is also a continual team of young people completing a 12-week hospitality course, a sector in need of new talent. 121 households were allocated devices through Connecting Scotland of which 38 of these are in Elgin. Digital connectivity will be extremely important as homeworking continues to be the norm hence why this is a strong priority in our plans.

Moray College UHI celebrated their 50th birthday in November 2021. The college was officially opened in 1971 as Elgin Technical College, progressing to Moray College of Further Education and now a partner of the University of the Highlands and Islands offering a diverse range of opportunities. The Student Services Learning Resource Centre was introduced plus the state of art Technology Centre on the Linkwood campus nearby. Their Chancellor, HRH Princess Anne opened the Digital Health Centre in 2015. Her message to students, staff and their families at that time was that 'we should be proud of our town and make the most of the opportunities which would come our way.'

In November 2020 Moray College UHI and Moray Foodbank Plus developed a system to capture, record and identify poverty trends within communities. They are currently working with Moray Council and NHS Grampian carrying out research into exercise and respiratory conditions. And are working with the UHI Centre for Rural Health looking at a platform to support Rural Housing Scotland to consult with rural communities ensuring that everyone has an equal say. They have an impressive list of current research projects e.g. SwimWild app which has responded to the growth in this activity during the current pandemic. Moray College UHI recently won its first Knowledge Transfer Project in collaboration with Windswept, a local brewing company.

The exciting opportunities afforded by the Moray Growth Deal will put Elgin and the surrounding area on the map. The UHI Enterprise and Innovation Hub will be located in the heart of Elgin and will provide an opportunity for world leading practitioner led research and innovation. The development of the Moray Aerospace and Advanced Technology Innovation Centre building will bring world leading aviation research and studies to Moray as well as a focus on advanced manufacturing.

The Alexander Graham Bell Building, a Business and Research Centre, is an alliance between Moray College UHI, Moray's healthcare provider NHS Grampian, and Highlands and Islands Enterprise. The building provides teaching facilities for the college and houses medical research and training rooms used by NHS Grampian and Health and Social Care Moray. The Centre is home to the seat of learning of the UHI Chair for Digital Health and provides the ideal venue for meetings, training, or conferences. The Business and Research Centre also provides key opportunities for new businesses working in the field of digital health technologies and research.

Moray continues to experience rapid innovation and growth in Life Science sector with particular strengths in Digital Healthcare. It benefits from a combined approach through the NHS and Health and Social Care Moray to health and care, essential in delivering health, social and economic benefit.

Scotland is already the world's only country with a digital health record for every member of the population. Moray's population has an integrated health system from hospital to primary care practitioners and social care with the perfect mix of urban and rural communities. The region therefore is ideally placed to be a test bed for the future from Elgin as it is easy to implement ideas quickly and has a growing reputation in developing digital technologies to improve service delivery and efficiency.

AGB strives to become an international centre of excellence in Digital Healthcare, offering a wealth of opportunity for business growth in a thriving and progressive environment with access to world-class knowledge and capabilities, in Moray. This is based on a highly skilled workforce that employs over 8,300 people in professional, scientific and technical activities. Staff train within their medical and training rooms located on the second floor of the AGB Centre, which includes a fully functional Mock Ward, Resuscitation Room, Health and Safety and Minor Surgery. The suite of research offices, on the second floor of the building are available for lease to organisations working within the Digital Health sector.

## Information on Public Green Spaces, Sport and Leisure Facilities, and Shopping Centres

### Sport and Leisure Facilities

There are more than 60 sports related clubs in Elgin operating from a range of facilities. The most recent build is Moray Sports Centre, a charity established in 2015, supporting sport and health provision, situated in north Elgin. This provision complements the range of facilities listed below:

Elgin High Sports Block	Sports halls, fitness room and 3G pitch
Elgin Community Centre	Sports hall, meeting rooms
Moray Leisure Centre	Swimming pool, exercise studios, fitness room, ice rink
Moray Sports Centre	Sports hall, exercise studios, fitness room, indoor tennis courts in planning stages
Moray College UHI	Sports hall, fitness room
The Gleaner Arena	3G pitch and 2 x 5-a-side pitches
Thornhill Playing Field	Grass football pitches
Pinefield Playing Field	Grass football pitches
Elgin Academy	Sports hall and 2G pitch
Morrison Playing Fields	Rugby and football pitches, cinder running track
Eight Acres Hotel	Swimming pool and fitness room (accessible to public)
Cooper Park	Cricket pitch, tennis courts, play area, pond, pitches & skatepark
Biblical Garden	Public garden maintained by college students and volunteers.
Various Bowling/Tennis Clubs	Owned/leased/operated by community clubs
Various Fitness Studios	Privately owned/run deliver boxing, martial arts, gymnastics etc
Elgin Golf Club	Measuring 6458 yards with par of 71 and a course rating of 71.4
Core Paths	60 core paths of which there are 11.5km on road and 53km off road.
The Wards Wildlife site	Non-statutory wildlife site designated by Scottish Wildlife Trust. Habitat notable for its size and supporting a colony of northern marsh orchids in an urban setting.
Wards Active	Site owned by 1 <sup>st</sup> Elgin Scouts supporting a proposed new Scout Hut build and partnership project regarding land-use.
Greenspaces	820ha of publicly usable open space. A large proportion is woodland (600ha) on the edge of the settlement.
Play Areas	16 play areas in Elgin with 6 play units in Primary Schools.
Church, uniformed organisations huts and community halls	A wide range of buildings in each ward supporting community activity and community clubs from faith groups to University of the Third Age.

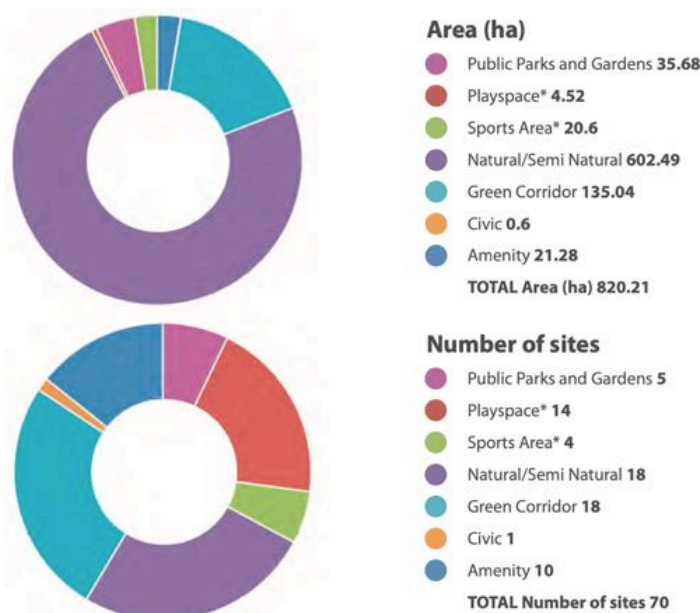
There is a dynamic local authority Active Schools Team operating in all schools to provide more opportunities for children and young people to access sport in their daily lives. Outdoor Learning and Adventure is supported through the charity Outfit Moray who provide accessible, affordable opportunities, encouraging life skills and improving physical and mental health. A sister project is Bike Revolution which encourages people to get out cycling by providing affordable bikes and servicing, guided bike rides and classes. It also reduces travel related carbon emissions and positively reduces landfill through the encouragement of recycling. These projects influenced the Elgin masterplan and the green travel considerations. Visitors to Elgin can pick up a folding hire bike at the station in an innovative project to encourage green travel.

### Open Space

The provision of good quality and accessible open spaces can help to achieve the objectives of Moray Community Planning's "Moray 2026 – A Plan for the Future". Open space supports healthy and active lifestyles, which can have both physical and mental health benefits. Attractive good quality spaces can contribute greatly to the attractiveness of places, which can encourage people to live and invest in an area. This strategy complements The Moray Council Active Travel Strategy, the Moray Core Paths Plan, and the Moray Forestry and Woodlands Strategy. Moray Council's Physical Activity, Sport and Health Strategy has a vision that physical activity and sport are embedded in the lives of the Moray community. Priority 2 Healthier

Citizens XIII seeks to “Retain a sufficient level of provision of green space/playing fields in Moray.” Ownership of these spaces will be reviewed linked to the public’s aspirations.

Access to Open Space has been especially important over the pandemic, and this was recognised by the Moray Lieutenancy in re-introducing the Moray Badge for school children; to encourage all ages to become active indoors and outdoors, as part of the Queens Platinum Jubilee celebrations. The greatest number of sites are within the Green Corridor and Natural/Semi Natural typology. Play spaces are also well represented. Many of the Natural/Semi Natural spaces are woodland and the Green Corridors include areas along the River Lossie and roads. There is around 600ha of woodland or natural/semi natural space and around Elgin. Woodlands provide a well-used resource, in particular the Oakwood, Quarrel Wood and Mayne Wood which have signposted routes. The central green corridor, which runs east to west through Elgin, is a key strength that provides visual amenity and attractive active travel routes.



Source: Open Space Strategy, Moray Council 2020

The accessibility of sites was assessed using GIS, overall 94% of households in Elgin were within 400m of an audited site and 92% were within 400m of a good or very good quality site.

### Shopping Data

In the town centre there are 32 national/regional multiples of retailers for retail goods (i.e., excluding café/restaurants).

Unit Type 2021	Town centre	Edgar Road
Comparison (used to compare what is available across different shops e.g. clothes. Furniture, gifts)	82	15
Convenience (mainly food shops)	16	2
Retail Services (travel agents, hairdressers, post offices)	55	
Leisure Services (cafes, restaurants, cinema, bingo, takeaways)	61	2
Business and Financial Services (banks, estate agents, lawyers)	26	
Vacant	32	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>295</b>

Additionally, in each of the Ward areas there are a variety of shops and businesses to support local needs.



## Transport Links

Elgin is a compact settlement with few hills. The centre is walkable within a 15 to 20 minutes journey time for much of Elgin, and cycle-able within 10 minutes, using an existing network of cycle routes, which includes an off-road dedicated cycle route adjacent to River Lossie passing east west through the settlement and providing access to the centre and green space at Cooper Park. Pedestrianisation of much of the High Street has made it safer and more pleasant place to visit and spend time.

Elgin enjoys frequent high-quality coach and rail links towards Inverness and Aberdeen, with connecting options at either location for destinations to the South. The Council's award-winning demand responsive Dial a Bus service covers areas around Elgin not served commercially by larger bus companies. This enables those unable to access a bus through location or infirmity in Elgin to travel and access retail and health care, as well as connecting into other coach and bus services. This service is for everyone, regardless of age or disability. The service operates Monday to Friday, starts for the Elgin area at 9.15am and finishes in Elgin at 2.30pm school days and 4.30pm on school holidays.

## Information on Local Authority Support (of any kind) for the Voluntary Sector.

There is a strong partnership between the local authority and the third sector interface (tsiMORAY) the body that represents community and voluntary sector groups. tsiMORAY are active on key strategic groups, from Community Learning and Development, Health and Social Care through to the Community Planning Board. They facilitate an annual networking conference "Join the Dots" to look at how we can address things as a community and harness the energy of the third sector.

The authority also links in with other representative groups such as forums, partnerships and community councils and actively provide support, advice and guidance to progress community priorities. Work continues to develop in the New Elgin East area where residents have been supported to develop their own locality plan, which capture community aspirations. The Scottish Community Development Centre has recognised this work nationally in reports and seminars.

People are key to making Elgin a great place to live, work and study – and partners work effectively together to address inequalities via the Fairer Moray Forum Action Group to increase social capital and community connections.

Elgin also benefits from a wide range of uniformed, church-based, sports and drama groups for young people, including a gold open award centre for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. All of this provision is predicated on the goodwill of volunteers sharing their skills often starting with a request at the Councils door. An example of this is the covid recovery:

From May through to October 2021, the Reconnect Partnership which includes M:ADE, Police Scotland, Outfit Moray, Active Schools, Elgin Youth Development Group, Jabuti Theatre and Moray Council's Youth Work Team have delivered events and opportunities for young people in the Elgin area. This includes four pop-up events, outdoor cinema showings, a Parkour Day in Elgin city centre and over 12 Street Football and Basketball sessions at various locations. Young people from Elgin have also had the opportunity to try out a variety of adventurous activities, exploring the fantastic outdoor attractions right on their doorstep.

Alongside this activity, the partnership has also reintroduced detached youth work across Elgin as a way of engaging with young people and finding out what they want to see in their community. Although the funding which made this possible has ended the partnership approach is at the heart of future developments.

There is an active Twinning arrangement, which is over 60 years' old and is organised by the Elgin and Landshut Twinning Association, which gives members a chance to stay with a German family for between a week and ten days. The Germans also organise biennial trips to Elgin, so meetings are a yearly occurrence. The Twinning arrangement is commemorated in the Landshut bridge named in honour of Elgin's twinned community in Bavaria the bridge spans the River Lossie, and a flood relief channel constructed as part of a major flood alleviation project in the City of Elgin.

d) Photographs

Please provide up to 50 photographs of permanent features of the area (rather than events or people), with brief captions describing what is shown. The emphasis should be on giving a representative and reasonably comprehensive impression of the area - especially the part that would constitute (for city status applicants) 'the city centre' - rather than photographic artistry.

The photographs, with their captions, should be submitted two to a page on A4.



Figure 1 Elgin Past & Present, An Historical Guide, Herbert B. Mackintosh Published 1914



*Figure 2 Linkwood Bonded Warehouse, showing Doig Ventilator*



*Figure 3 Dr Gray's*



*Figure 4 Dr Gray's*



*Figure 5 Elgin Academy*



*Figure 6 Elgin High School*



*Figure 7 Ladyhill, Elgin Castle ruins, and the Gordon Monument*



Figure 8 Elgin High Street



Figure 9 St Giles Centre



*Figure 10 Drummer Statue, Elgin High Street*



*Figure 11 St Giles Kirk, with Elgin History projection*





*Figure 12 Santa's Reindeers visiting Elgin*



*Figure 13 The Plainstones at Christmas*



*Figure 14 Elgin High Street Fountain*



*Figure 15 Modern architecture mimics existing Elgin styles*



Figure 16 Local architectural quirks



Figure 17 Pedestrian area of the High Street



Figure 18 Remembrance Day



Figure 19 Leisure Centre



Figure 20 Elgin Town Hall



Figure 21 Elgin City scoring a goal



Figure 22 Elgin City at Bishopriggs



*Figure 23 Elgin City Football Crest*



*Figure 24 Cooper Park Lake in Winter*



*Figure 25 Motorfun Rally in the Cooper Park*



*Figure 26 Grant Lodge, Cooper Park*





*Figure 27 Cycling across the Lossie at Bishopmill*



*Figure 28 Elgin Library, across the Cooper Park lake*



Figure 29 Elgin Museum & the Muckle Cross



Figure 30 This is the Pictish stone display and a close-up of the Dandaleith stone in Elgin Museum



Figure 31 Moray Council Access Point



Figure 32 Elgin Sheriff Court



*Figure 33 Elgin Cathedral*



*Figure 34 Elgin Cathedral across the Lossie*



*Figure 35 Elgin's Biblical Gardens*



*Figure 36 New bridge over the Lossie, from the old bridge*



*Figure 37 Johnstons of Elgin Woollen Mill*



*Figure 38 Andersons Institution*



*Figure 39 Andersons Institution*



*Figure 40 'The City of Elgin' flying over the Pinefield Industrial Estate, Elgin*



*Figure 41 'The City of Elgin', based at RAF Lossiemouth*



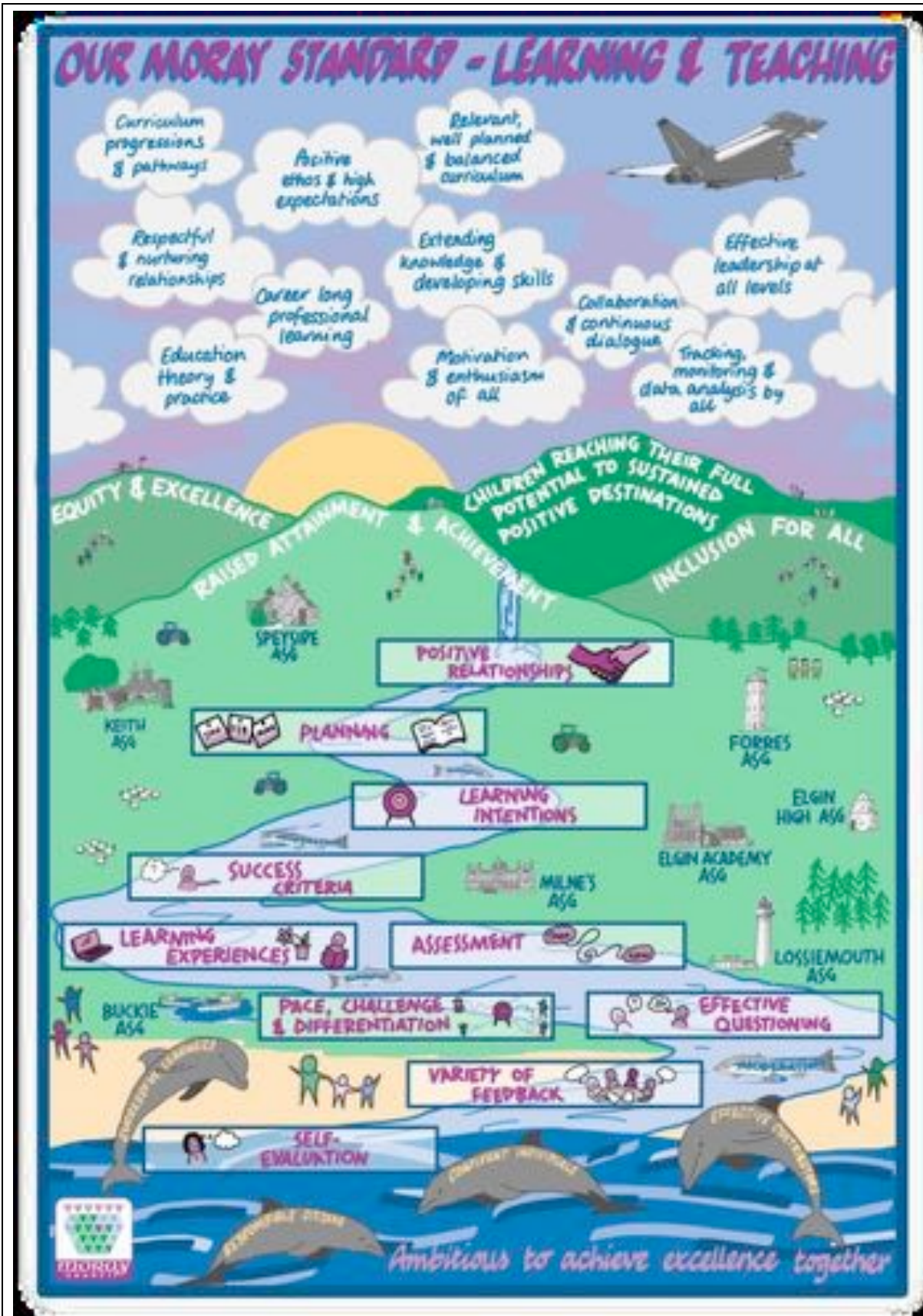


Figure 42 Our Moray Standard for Learning & Teaching 2021

It has been a joy over  
the past 400 years to have  
called Elgin as our family  
earldom

m  
1948

I will never forget a duty  
which I took, from Johnston's  
to carry to Elgin, Kinross a  
Tartan sash for the Mayor  
& Chairman of the Elgin National  
Watch Company. To-day Elgin  
is very much at the heart of  
of Industrial & Whisky production  
& well deserves City status.

Elgin

Figure 43 The Rt Hon The Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, KT (aged 97)



c) Map

Please provide one map which is a detailed map of the area showing the main tourist, leisure and entertainment sites and green spaces accessible to the public. The main transport routes serving these, with an indication of services' frequency, should either be shown on the detailed map or listed in an accompanying document.

