



LIVINGSTON
CITY STATUS BID





Livingston is bidding for city status as part of the Queen's 2022 Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

In celebration of next year's Platinum Jubilee event which will mark Her Majesty The Queen's 70th year on the throne, local authorities across the United Kingdom are invited to take part in the Platinum Jubilee Civic Honours Competition. This special competition will allow local authorities to apply for an area they wish to be considered for city status by the closing date of 8 December 2021, and the town of Livingston has been nominated by West Lothian Council.

The bid will be led by West Lothian Council working in partnership with local citizens, community groups, public services, companies and charities.

With Livingston's 60-year anniversary of gaining a new-town status approaching next year, this competition is a perfectly fitting way of demonstrating and emphasising Livingston's unique and distinct identity.



LIVINGSTON
DESIGNER
OUTLET

WHY SHOULD LIVINGSTON BE SCOTLAND'S NEXT CITY?

Livingston represents everything that Scotland's New Towns were designed to be, and much more.

Livingston is a vibrant community – one that is forward thinking, dynamic and growing.

LIVINGSTONCITYBID

Over the last 59 years, Livingston has been transformed from three villages and only 60 households to a large, culturally vibrant town. The town's residents came to Livingston from the Lothians, Glasgow and beyond, and from a range of economic and cultural backgrounds.

Although one of the UK's youngest towns, Livingston is proud of its heritage. Livingston isn't, however, a place where people look continually to what has gone before – it's a home where people look to the future – it's in Livingston's DNA. We believe that is what is unique about Livingston, and gaining city status would recognise our achievements to date and our ambition for the future.

Next year, Livingston will celebrate both the town's Diamond Jubilee and the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The gaining of city status would be the perfect way to mark both occasions and for the community to celebrate together.

City status is a prestigious accolade and would help to attract more investment and tourism.

Gaining city status would positively boost Livingston economically, encouraging potential inward investment from companies looking to expand their business.

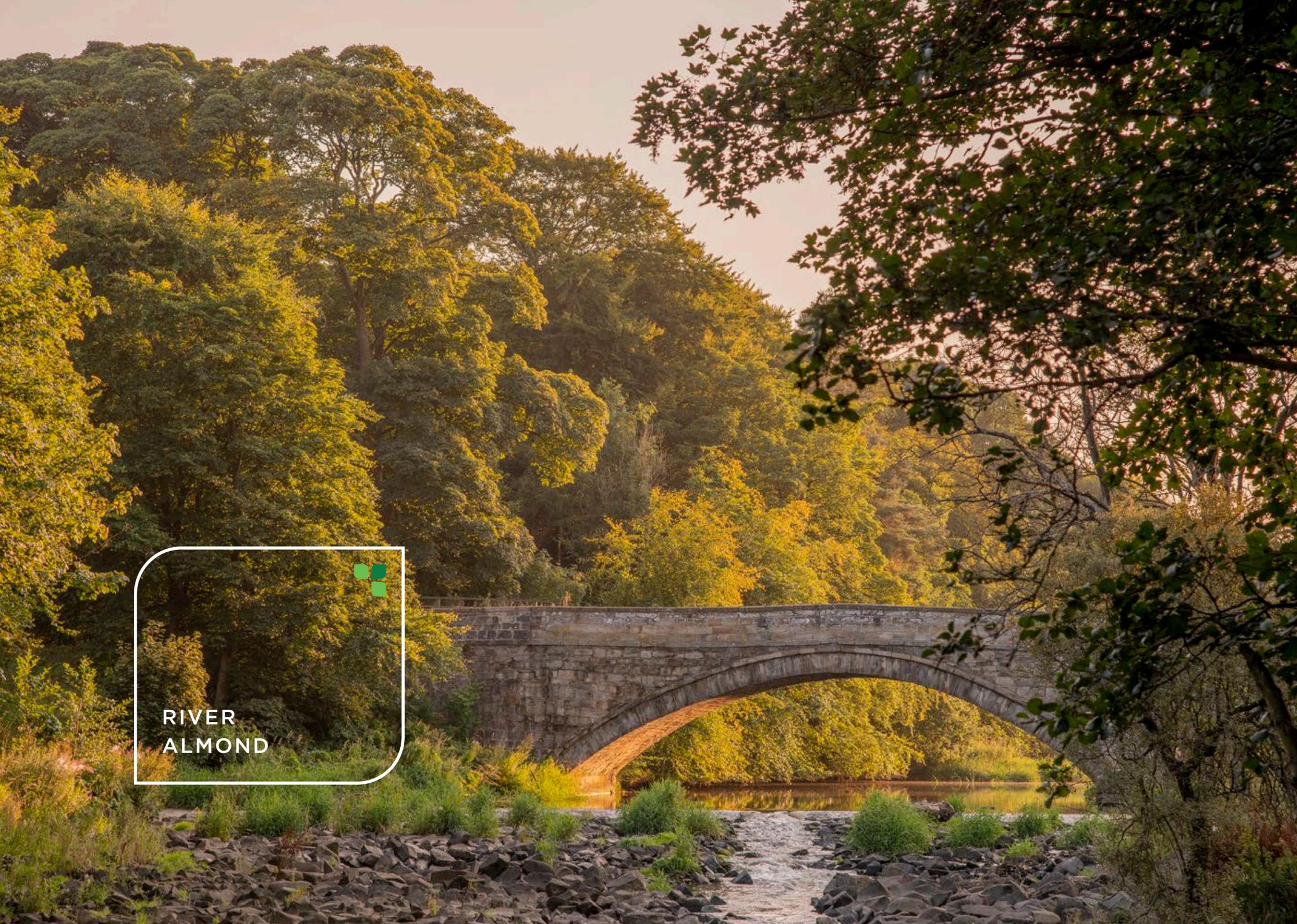


HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS AND LIVINGSTON HAS BEEN MY HOME FOR OVER 40 YEARS. THE PEOPLE HERE ARE GENEROUS AND DEEPLY CARE ABOUT THEIR TOWN. FOR ME, LIVINGSTON HAS EVERYTHING - WONDERFUL PARKS, OPEN SPACES, A THRIVING ARTS AND LEISURE SCENE. A HUGELY RESPECTED COLLEGE AND MUCH-LOVED HOSPITAL. LIVINGSTON HAS A RICH HISTORY AND A VERY BRIGHT FUTURE AND ACHIEVING CITY STATUS WOULD BE THOROUGHLY DESERVED. I CAN THINK OF NO BETTER WAY TO CELEBRATE LIVINGSTON'S DIAMOND JUBILEE AND THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE.



Lawrence Fitzpatrick

Leader of West Lothian Council, Livingston resident



RIVER
ALMOND

PLANNING HISTORY AND PROGRESS

Livingston New Town was designated in April 1962 to cover 2,700ha, the fourth of the five New Towns to be designated in Scotland.

In the six decades of its existence it has proved highly successful in achieving its original objectives.

Its first objective was to create a focal point for industrial expansion in Central Scotland. After initially establishing itself as an important location for general industry, Livingston has gone on to become a major attraction for high-technology employers onto sites such as the Alba Campus.

It has provided a central location for one of Scotland's major retail centres, a district general hospital that provides a comprehensive range of services for the people of Lothian and beyond, the home of Livingston FC and West Lothian College, and an array of recreational facilities which

are of benefit to the whole of Central Scotland. More fundamentally it has become the engine of locally generated economic development. Another objective was to accommodate the large-scale population growth predicted in Central Scotland at that time and the population pressures from Glasgow. Livingston is now by far the largest town in West Lothian and second only to Edinburgh in the Lothians.

Livingston may be a new town but its story goes back much further than 1962. Leving built a castle here around 1124. His castle was surrounded by houses and steadings. It was called Leving's town, over the years becoming known as Livingston.

In the 19th century, oil shale brought wealth to West Lothian. Livingston was a centre of the shale industry. There were mines and an oil works at

Livingston Station. There was another mine at Newfarm which is now the site of the Lanthorn Community Centre. An aerial ropeway was built to carry the shale from Newfarm to the Oakbank Oil works, about two or three miles away, where it was processed into crude oil.

By 1962, the area that would be designated as Livingston new town included the villages of Bellsquarry, Livingston Village and the largest, Livingston Station, which was home to around 1,400 residents.

Livingston has always been proud of its heritage and features of early Livingston were incorporated into the town. Historic buildings were renovated to become community facilities, whilst new housing was built alongside miners' cottages.

INNOVATION

Livingston is widely recognised as one of the country's leading areas in the manufacturing and service industry sectors. Some of the world's leading companies are located within Livingston representing the software manufacturing, biotech, information technology and service sectors.





HOWDEN PARK
CENTRE

LIVINGSTON TODAY

LIVINGSTON IS BY FAR THE **LARGEST SETTLEMENT** IN WEST LOTHIAN AND SECOND ONLY TO EDINBURGH WITHIN THE ENTIRE LOTHIAN REGION



THE POPULATION OF THE GREATER LIVINGSTON AREA IS NOW NEARLY 80,000 (MAKING IT SIGNIFICANTLY LARGER THAN OTHER CITIES SUCH AS STIRLING, INVERNESS AND PERTH) AND IS DUE TO GROW TO 100,000 IN FUTURE YEARS.

THE GREATER LIVINGSTON ECONOMY IS WORTH OVER **£4.5 BILLION PER ANNUM**. MULTINATIONALS, INDIGENOUS SCALE-UPS AND EARLY-STAGE START-UPS FORM A VIBRANT AND COMPETITIVE BUSINESS BASE.



LIVINGSTON IS AN INCREDIBLE PLACE TO LIVE, WORK AND VISIT. IT HAS SO MUCH TO OFFER FAMILIES AND I'M REALLY PROUD OF LIVINGSTON FOR EVERYTHING THAT IT IS ALREADY AND FOR EVERYTHING THAT IT ASPIRES TO BE. ACHIEVING CITY STATUS WOULD BE WELL-DESERVED AND HELP THE TOWN ACHIEVE ITS AMBITION.



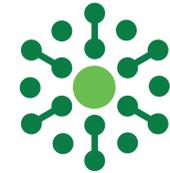
Dr Robin Chesters

Director, Almond Valley Heritage Trust, Millfield, Livingston

ACROSS THE GREATER LIVINGSTON AREA THERE IS A BROAD SPECTRUM OF SPORTS CLUBS OPERATING, RANGING FROM CLUBS WITH A VOLUNTEER-LED COMMUNITY FOCUS TO PRIVATE PROVIDERS, ALONG WITH ONE PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL CLUB. **WELL OVER 50 CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS FROM ACROSS MORE THAN 20 DIFFERENT SPORTS OFFER ACTIVITY OPPORTUNITIES.**



LIVINGSTON IS **WEST LOTHIAN'S REGIONAL CENTRE** FOR ADMINISTRATION, COMMERCE, EDUCATION, CULTURE AND HEALTH CARE. IT IS ALSO THE LEGAL CENTRE WITH HIGH, DISTRICT AND SHERIFF COURTS.



KEY INDICATORS OF THE ECONOMY SHOW THAT THE GREATER LIVINGSTON AREA HAS **ONE OF THE FASTEST-GROWING AND YOUNGEST POPULATIONS IN SCOTLAND** AND IS HOME TO AN EXTENSIVE BUSINESS BASE WITH ALMOST 78,000 JOBS IN THE AREA.



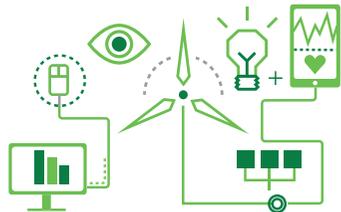
LIVINGSTON HAS A RICH HISTORY WHEN IT COMES TO LOTS OF VOLUNTARY GROUPS. THERE ARE OVER 250 VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS THAT PROVIDE MUCH NEEDED SUPPORT TO THOSE IN NEED ACROSS THE GREATER LIVINGSTON AREA.

WITH 21 PARKS LOCATED ACROSS LIVINGSTON, THE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION'S VISION OF A GARDEN CITY HAS BEEN REALISED, WITH EVERY HOUSE IN LIVINGSTON LOCATED WITHIN 500M OF A PLAY AREA OR ACCESSIBLE GREEN SPACE.



LIVINGSTON HAS OVER THREE MILLION TREES. THERE ARE OVER 38 TREES FOR EVERY RESIDENT WITHIN THE GREATER LIVINGSTON AREA

TODAY'S GREATER LIVINGSTON ECONOMY HAS BEEN BUILT ON A DIVERSE RANGE OF SECTORS BUT IS NOW CHARACTERISED BY LIFE SCIENCES, ENGINEERING, CONSTRUCTION, FOOD & DRINK, DISTRIBUTION, AEROSPACE, RETAIL, SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT AND RENEWABLES.



WITH 21% OF THE POPULATION AGED UNDER 16, LIVINGSTON HAS THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF YOUNG PEOPLE OF ANY OF SCOTLAND'S 25 LARGEST TOWNS AND CITIES.



TWO OF LIVINGSTON'S SECONDARY SCHOOLS ARE RANKED IN SCOTLAND'S TOP 30 STATE SCHOOLS AND ALL FOUR OF LIVINGSTON'S SECONDARIES ARE RANKED IN THE TOP THIRD OF ALL SCOTTISH STATE SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

ALL FOUR LIVINGSTON SECONDARY SCHOOLS ARE OUTPERFORMING THE NATIONAL SCOTTISH AVERAGE AND ARE ALSO OUTPERFORMING COMPARATOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN SCOTLAND. (BASED ON SCHOOL LEAVERS ACHIEVING FIVE OR MORE LEVEL 6 AWARDS).



THE SPIRIT OF LIVINGSTON IS ONE THAT IS ALWAYS LOOKING FORWARD AND ONE THAT IS CONTINUALLY LOOKING TO ACHIEVE. I BELIEVE LIVINGSTON IS ONE OF THE BEST PLACES TO STAY IN SCOTLAND.



Angela Constance MSP

Member of Scottish Parliament for the Almond Valley constituency



I GREW UP IN ONE OF THE ORIGINAL PARTS OF THE NEW TOWN OF LIVINGSTON, CRAIGSHILL. I AM PROUD TO REPRESENT THE PEOPLE OF LIVINGSTON WHOSE SENSE OF COMMUNITY SPIRIT IS VAST. WE HAVE SOME OF THE MOST INNOVATIVE AND COURAGEOUS COMPANIES IN THE WORLD, DIVERSE COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS, A FANTASTIC FOOTBALL TEAM AND AN EMERGING CULTURAL AND ARTS COMMUNITY. AS LIVINGSTON CONTINUES TO GROW IN SIZE AND APPEAL, IT IS TIME THAT IS RECOGNISED WITH CITY STATUS.



Hannah Bardell MP

Member of Parliament for the Livingston Constituency, born and bred in Livingston



LIVINGSTON HAS A FANTASTIC BALANCE OF INDUSTRY AND LOCAL AMENITIES, AS WELL AS HAVING THE FEELING OF BEING IN THE COUNTRYSIDE WHEN ON SOME OF THE WALKING ROUTES THAT WE HAVE ON OUR DOORSTEP. THE SKILLED DEDICATED WORKFORCE WE HAVE IN LIVINGSTON, COUPLED WITH THE IDEAL LOCATION, ARE REASONS WHY JAPANESE INDUSTRY GIANTS, MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC, HAVE CONTINUED TO INVEST AND GROW THROUGHOUT THE YEARS IN LIVINGSTON AND THIS IS SOMETHING OF WHICH THE TOWN SHOULD BE EXTREMELY PROUD. THIS IS A PLACE THAT HAS CONSIDERED WORK, LIFE AND OPPORTUNITY FOR ITS RESIDENTS AS IT HAS DEVELOPED AND GROWN AT A RAPID PACE OVER THE YEARS. THE AMBITION SHOWN TO ACHIEVE CITY STATUS SHOULD BE APPLAUDED AND SUPPORTED.



Graham Angus

Asst. Department Manager
Mitsubishi Electric
Air-conditioning Systems
Europe Ltd.

THE BEST OF SCOTTISH FOOD AND DRINK LOCATED IN LIVINGSTON:

Glenmorangie

Glenmorangie has been the bestselling single malt in Scotland almost every year since 1983 and around 10 million bottles are produced per annum. Glenmorangie operates from a purpose built state-of-the-art site in Alba Business Park, Livingston.

Ian Macleod distillers

Ian Macleod Distillers Ltd is an independent family run distillery now in its third generation. The company produce over 15 million bottles of spirits every year.

AK Stoddart

Founded in 1959 as a butchery supplier, Stoddarts are now a fully integrated beef and haggis supplier working with some of the biggest farms in Scotland.

Matugga Distillers Limited

Matugga Distillers Limited opened in 2018 and is one of the first rum distilleries in Central Scotland.

United Central Bakeries

United Central Bakeries was established in 1989 and it is now part of the Finsbury Group, specialising in bread making.

Paterson Arran

Paterson Arran produces a wide range of shortbread, biscuits and oatcakes from its Royal Burgh Bakery in Livingston including the nations favourite shortbread brand Paterson's.

Glen Turner

One of the biggest selling blended Scotch whiskies in the world. Scotland's first new grain distillery opened at the local site in 2010. This was followed by the acquisition of the world-renowned Cutty Sark brand.

Alechemy Brewing Co

A successful Livingston-based start-up which trades as a family-run independent brewery. Alechemy have built their reputation through creating a range of occasional speciality beers which complement their core range of bottled and cask ales.

PROPERTY DEMAND

With its green space and amenities, Livingston is an attractive place to live and there is a high demand for housing. House sales are some of the quickest in the UK and house values have increased significantly.



HOUSE
VALUE
INCREASE



MEDIAN
TIME TO
SELL





AT THE CENTRE, WE ARE PROUD TO BE AT THE HEART OF LIVINGSTON, SERVING THE LOCAL COMMUNITY AND PROVIDING AN EXTENSIVE MIX OF RETAIL AND LEISURE OFFERINGS, WHICH DRAWS PEOPLE IN FROM WEST LOTHIAN AND FURTHER AFIELD. THANKS TO ITS LOCATION, TRANSPORT LINKS AND LOCAL COMMERCE, LIVINGSTON IS THRIVING. IT'S NOT ONLY A VIBRANT PLACE TO LIVE AND WORK, THE SENSE OF COMMUNITY SPIRIT IS UNPARALLELED. ACHIEVING CITY STATUS WOULD BE A WELL- DESERVED HONOUR, ONE WHICH RECOGNISES THE DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER OF LIVINGSTON, ITS RICH HERITAGE AND ITS PEOPLE.



Patrick Robbertze

Centre Director
at The Centre,
Livingston

WHY BECOME A CITY?

City status is a prestigious accolade and would help to attract more investment, tourism and boost the local economy. Gaining city status would positively boost Livingston economically, encouraging potential inward investment from companies looking to expand their business.

This would create potential employment opportunities for the residents of Livingston and further afield.

Research on the economic impact of city status on the UK's eight newest cities highlighted that, in the vast majority of locations, the new cities outperformed their regional counterparts in terms of increasing investment and reducing unemployment. The research also found that other benefits were less easy to quantify, such as the international exposure and the pride about becoming a city (University of Reading).

WHAT FEATURES DOES A TOWN NEED TO BECOME A CITY?

To become a "city", a town must be of significant size, and be the regional centre for administration, commerce, education, culture and health care, and it ought to be a legal centre with District and Sheriff courts. Livingston is all of these things and more.



M8
MOTORWAY

ELIBURN
RESERVOIR

HOUSTON
INDUSTRIAL ESTATE



LIVINGSTON
NORTH STATION



HOWDEN PARK
CENTRE



ALBA CAMPUS



WEST LOTHIAN
COLLEGE



ALMOND RIVER



CIVIC CENTRE



LIVINGSTON
SKATE PARK



SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT-
BUILDING STANDARDS
DIVISION



ST JOHN'S
HOSPITAL



ALMOND VALLEY
HERITAGE CENTRE



LIVINGSTON
FOOTBALL CLUB



LIVINGSTON
DESIGNER OUTLET



THE CENTRE



LIVINGSTON
SOUTH STATION





LIVINGSTON HAS EVERYTHING YOU'D EXPECT FROM AN AMBITIOUS, GROWING AND MODERN SCOTTISH CITY. ITS POPULATION SIZE AND ECONOMIC GROWTH AND SUCCESS SPEAKS FOR ITSELF, AND IT HAS A HUGE AMOUNT TO OFFER VISITORS AND LOCAL RESIDENTS. THIS TOWN HAS GROWN INTO SOMETHING VERY SPECIAL AND IT OFFERS A UNIQUE BALANCE BETWEEN HISTORY, INNOVATION, COMMERCE AND OPEN SPACE. ALL IN ALL IT IS A WONDERFUL ENVIRONMENT TO LIVE, WORK AND DO BUSINESS, AND IT WOULD BE TRULY BEFITTING OF THE QUEEN'S 2022 PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS IF LIVINGSTON WERE TO ACHIEVE CITY STATUS. THE PEOPLE OF LIVINGSTON CARE PASSIONATELY ABOUT THEIR HOME AND HAVE PLAYED THEIR PART IN HELPING LIVINGSTON BECOME ONE OF THE MOST SUCCESSFUL AREAS OF SCOTLAND AND ONE THAT CONTINUES TO THRIVE.



Moira Niven MBE

West Lothian's
Lord Lieutenant

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community engagement and participation will be a key feature of our application and will include input from local residents, elected members, community organisations and groups, industry and retail sectors, leisure and tourism providers and local schools.

Through this engagement we will showcase the many strengths of Livingston in support of the application process.

HAVE YOUR SAY

Please send any messages of support to livingstoncity@westlothian.gov.uk.

We'd also welcome comments on what Livingston means to you and your family.

Follow the **#livingstoncitybid** hashtag on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram

Look out for more information on how you can get involved in support of Livingston's application at www.westlothian.gov.uk/livingstoncity





WIND VANE
FAMILY



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