

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

REPORT TO: COUNCIL

Date of Meeting: 23 July 2009
Report of: Borough Solicitor and Monitoring Officer
Subject/Title: Coat of Arms

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 The report sets out the next steps required to enable the Council to be granted a Coat of Arms, for use by the Mayor only, as previously agreed in principle, and invites the Council to approve the design of the Arms and consider the Motto, so that a formal Petition can be submitted to the College of Arms.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Council –
- a) approves the design of the Coat of Arms for Cheshire East Council, together with the descriptive text
 - b) decides an appropriate Motto for the Coat of Arms
 - c) authorises the submission of a Petition to the College of Arms, in order that the Grant of Arms may be made.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 To enable the Council to complete the formalities and to obtain its Coat of Arms, as agreed in principle by the Shadow Council in July 2008.

4.0 Wards Affected

- 4.1 All

5.0 Local Ward Members

- 5.1 All

6.0 Policy Implications including - Climate change - Health

- 6.1 None

7.0 Financial Implications for Transition Costs (Authorised by the Borough Treasurer)

- 7.1 Costs to College of Arms fee, £11,500 already paid in January 2009

8.0 Financial Implications 2009/10 and beyond (Authorised by the Borough Treasurer)

- 8.1 Costs to produce Mayoral items e.g. stationery, crests for Mayor's attendants uniforms etc. Approx £1,000. Cost of producing Mayoral chains of office have not yet been explored but could be considerable if commissioned from new, alternatively adaptations to the existing items may be possible.

9.0 Legal Implications (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)

- 9.1 None

10.0 Risk Management

- 10.1 There are no risks associated with this matter

11.0 Background and Options

- 11.1 On 30 July 2008, the Shadow Council resolved: "the Council is of the view that approval should be sought to the adoption of an appropriate Coat of Arms for the Authority."

With regard to the Coats of Arms owned by the predecessor Councils, if it is intended that an existing Coat of Arms should be used for formal purposes (e.g. letterheads or civic regalia) this may be achieved by a transfer which requires the approval of the College of Arms. Otherwise such pre-existing Coats of Arms may not be used by successor bodies. A transfer may be granted to another Council, including Town & Parish Councils, or to Charter Trustees, and is achieved by an Order in Council or through Royal Licence.

- 11.2 The Grant of a Coat of Arms is achieved through the College of Arms. It is necessary for an applicant seeking a newly designed set of Arms (rather than the transfer of existing Arms) to draw up and submit the proposed Coat of Arms for consideration by the College. The College is responsible for approving the design, and for issuing the Letters Patent which make the formal Grant of Arms. Work has already been undertaken by the Communications Service on the design of the new Coat of Arms for Cheshire East Council. Following consultation with Members, the design has been submitted informally and has received approval from the College. **A copy of the proposed Arms together with the explanatory text is appended to this report.**
- 11.3 It is possible to incorporate a Motto and it is proposed that this will be:-

"Working Together for Excellence",

as these four words sum up Cheshire East's purpose and best describe our destiny. This motto results from discussion between Members.

- 11.4 Should the Council agree the design and adopt a Motto for the Coat of Arms, the next stage will be to submit a formal Petition to the College seeking the Grant of Arms. This Petition is drawn up by the College. The resulting Grant of Arms is made by Letters Patent, which contain the Coat of Arms painted on Vellum, with inscribed text which describes the meaning and construction of the Arms. The Letters Patent are signed and sealed by the Kings of Arms, and once issued become the property of the applicant.
- 11.5 The Council is therefore invited to approve the design of the Coat of Arms, the descriptive text and the proposed Motto, so that a formal Petition can be made to the College for the issuing of the Letters Patent.

12.0 Overview of Year One and Term One Issues

- 12.1 Even though Cheshire East is a new Council and has acquired Borough Status from 1 April 2009, there is no deadline for applying for a Coat of Arms. However it is suggested that it would be appropriate for the Arms to be granted early in the life of the Council. This will enable the Arms to be used by the Mayoral Office, particularly in connection with the Civic insignia, and for example the Mayoral stationery if so desired. Accordingly this may be viewed as a Year One issue.

13.0 Access to Information

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

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Appendix

Coat of Arms - Proposed Design and guidance on a motto



The proposed design, left, and proposed heraldic badge below, from the College of Arms have taken elements from all our predecessor authorities. Please note this will only be used in Mayoral applications and will not be used in place of our main corporate identity. See below for the detailed explanation the notes from the College of Arms:

In putting together the design, officers have borne in mind the heraldry of the three predecessor borough councils (and the county council).

Wheat sheaves (or garbs as they are known in heraldry) are the symbols most associated with Cheshire and are a prominent feature of the shields of all three predecessor

authorities. In all four cases, the traditional colour combination of gold garbs on a blue background was employed. Whereas the Council is using a freer version of a wheat sheaf in its logo this now has to take a more conventional heraldic form.

Mural crowns are often used in local government heraldry (and a red mural crown was used as a crest coronet in the coats of arms of the county council and Crewe and Nantwich). A combination of three such crowns would serve very well to represent the amalgamation of the three boroughs that has created the new council's area of jurisdiction. The crest uses a different form of crown – known in heraldry as an Eastern crown - referring to the fact that the authority covers the eastern half of the county.

The main feature of the crest is a stag. Two gold stags supported the arms of Macclesfield Borough Council (having in turn been a feature of the arms of various local families) and stags are common in Tatton Park

Lions figure a great deal in the existing heraldry – the county council had a lion in its crest and two lions as its supporters, Congleton had a lion in its shield and a lion as one of its supporters, Crewe and Nantwich had a lion in its crest and Macclesfield had lions in its shield and crest. A lion has therefore been made one of the two supporters in the new design.

Crewe and Nantwich's supporters were two griffins and the other supporter is therefore a griffin. This has additional symbolism because in classical mythology the griffin was the guardian of treasure. It is therefore an allusion to the council's role as custodian of the district's heritage. Both the lion and the griffin have garlands of laurel round their neck in the same fashion as the stags in Macclesfield's coat of arms. Some further difference was needed to make the supporters distinctive and they are therefore shown standing on a grassy mound, emblematic of the countryside. This includes some wavy blue

lines to suggest rivers and waterways: similar imagery was employed in the arms of Congleton and Crewe and Nantwich.

Finally, a single garb and an Eastern crown have been combined to form a simple heraldic badge.

There remains the question of a motto, which is the one thing usually left to the grantee to suggest. It is customary (though certainly not obligatory) to include one. Unlike the coat of arms, which has to be distinctive as compared to anything previously recorded, the Council is at liberty to adopt a motto already in use by some other institution or family. It can be in any language but should be no more than a few words long.