

KETTERING TOWN COUNCIL

Meeting	ANNUAL COUNCIL 19 MAY 2021	Page 1
Report Originator	Emma Driver	<i>Agenda item No</i> 2021/019
Title	Adoption of Coat of Arms for Kettering Town Council	

Purpose of Report

To consider whether to seek approval for a coat of arms for the new Council and what form any such coat of arms should take.

Information

With the formation of the Kettering Town Council on 1 April 2021 decisions about whether the Council has a Coat of Arms is now being sought. The Mace and Mayoral Chains which were transferred to KTC upon the abolition of KBC on 31 March 2021 currently still bear the insignia for the old Borough Council which are no longer valid.

The former Borough Council endorsed the idea that an approach should be made to the College of Arms to explore the adoption of a coat of arms for the Town Council, potentially utilising the insignia which were in use before 1974. KBC paid the up front fees that the College of Arms required to start the process off.

However, the College of Arms requires this new sovereign body to make a choice about its preferred insignia before they can consider it formally.

Options

There are various options open to the Council, which are detailed below:-

Option 1 Adopt the old Kettering District Council Coat of arms from pre-1974 in full including Supporters, Crest and Shield

This would work out to be the cheapest option as we have all the old jewellery to put onto the Mace and Chains.

However initial reaction from the College of Arms isn't favourable as most Town Councils don't have Supporters, but they could be persuaded if KTC put up a strong case.

Some concern has been expressed about the nature of the supporters by some members of the public.

Option 2 Adopt the Shield and Crest without the Supporters

This would involve extra costs as KTC will have to get new jewellery made for the Mace and Mayoral Chains

Option 3 Create an entirely new design.

This would be the most expensive option as KTC would need to pay for design costs together with the new jewellery to be made for the Mace and Mayoral Chains.

Resource Implications

Detailed estimates will need to be sought depending on the choice members make; the cost of option one is likely to be £800 plus VAT and carriage; the cost of option two will be £900 plus VAT and carriage and option three correspondingly higher in the region of £2,000 plus VAT and carriage. Please note these prices are for the Mayor's Chain only. The Mayoress chain would also carry approximately the same costings.

Decision required

- a) Do members wish to seek the adoption of a cost of arms for the Town Council, for use on insignia, letter heads and signage etc?
- b) If so, which option would members like to explore in more detail?

Additional background information on the Coat of Arms

Arms : Sable a Pelt Or in chief a Cross Crosslet fitchy of the last between two Fountains each charged with a Martlet of the first.

Crest : On a Wreath of the Colours issuant from a Circlet of Chain Flames proper.

Supporters : On the dexter side a Griffin reguardant Or beaked and membered and gorged with a Chain reflexed over the back Azure and on the sinister side a male figure habited about the waist with a Cloth and his sinister wrist encircled with a Handcuff pendent therefrom a broken Chain Azure.

Motto: 'PROGRESSIO ET CONCORDIA' - Progress and concord

Origin/meaning

The arms were officially granted on September 26, 1938.

The pelt represents Kettering's chief industry, the manufacture of boots and shoes. The heraldic fountains refer to the formation of the Baptist Missionary Society at the Mission House at Lower Street in 1792. The martlets are from the arms of the Watson family of Rockingham, who with the Montagus are Lords of the Manor of Kettering. The cross is from the arms of the See of Peterborough.

The crest symbolizes the iron-ore industry.

The Montagu family is further represented by the griffin and the male figure with a broken chain recalls the pioneer work of William Knibb in the cause of freeing the slaves. Knibb was born at Kettering in 1803.

