



REPORT FOR DECISION

Item No:- FC23/052

Committee:-	Finance and Governance Committee
Date:-	22 nd November 2023
Author:-	Martin Hammond, Clerk
Report Title:-	Mayoral Activity, Coat of Arms, Mace and Mayoral Cadet
Wards Affected:-	All

1. Purpose of Report

- a) To advise the committee on Mayoral activities
- b) To seek approval for updating the civic regalia with the new coat of arms and to make repairs to the mace.
- c) To seek views on the future appointment of a Mayoral cadet.

2. Recommendations

That:-

- a) Members determine which imagery of the coat of arms they wish to procure
- b) Members consider how to deal with the repairs to the mace
- c) Members consider if they wish to accept the quote from Vaughtons for the new pendant on the mayor's replica chain.
- d) Revised budget headings, as set out in para 8.3, be incorporated into the 24/25 budget.
- e) Members determine if they wish to explore with cadet groups the re-introduction of a Mayoral cadet.

3. Information – Mayoral events

- 3.1. The Council ran a local search “Hunt for a Hero”, with the help of the Evening Telegraph, to identify a local person who could switch on the Christmas Lights. More than 36 people were nominated by over 200 nominators and the Mayor selected Kelly Mercer, from those nominated, to switch on the lights. She will be

joined by Sebastian Nunney who is a young person battling illness, who has been the centre of fund raising efforts locally.

- 3.2. The Mayor has agreed a series of events over the next few months to help raise funds for her charities. They are:-

14 th December	Chilli Off event	Kettering Rugby Club
January	Roller skating event	Corn Market Hall *
7 th February	Bhangra Class	Kettering Science Academy
8 th March	International Womens Day	KGH Social Club
12 th April	Big Kettering Quiz	Kettering Rugby Club

*To be confirmed

To date, she has raised £725 for her charitable funds.

- 3.3. As at the end of November, the Mayor will have attended 122 engagements, and chaired three Town meetings. The Deputy Mayor will have attended 7.
- 3.4. The Mayor has also undertaken to chair a task group of interested organisations to promote information sharing and collaboration on mental health services, arising from the Town Meeting discussion on this subject in September. The group has met twice to date.

4. Coat of Arms

- 4.1. The College of Arms has approved a coat of arms for the Council. It is essentially the coat of arms enjoyed by the old Kettering Borough Council from 1938-1974, but without the two supporters – the Griffin and freed slave. A decision now needs to be taken about how to use it, which will be for Council in due course. The image below is the old 1938-1974 coat of arms with the supporters.



- 4.2. Firstly there needs to be a set of digital images created, which can then be used to update the civic regalia. The College of Arms has offered to produce either a full set of arms or an image of just the shield. They will provide either

- a) Artwork of the full 'armorial achievement', consisting of the coat of arms, the crest, the helm, the mantling and the motto scroll, in three different parts – the full coat, the shield on its own, and the crest on its own.
- b) Artwork of the coat of arms (the shield) on its own)

Each of these will be supplied in four different colour formats, to suit different contexts:

- A full colour version, with shading and highlights
- A flat colour version
- A mono black version, composed from flat black shapes
- A mono black line art (i.e. outline) version

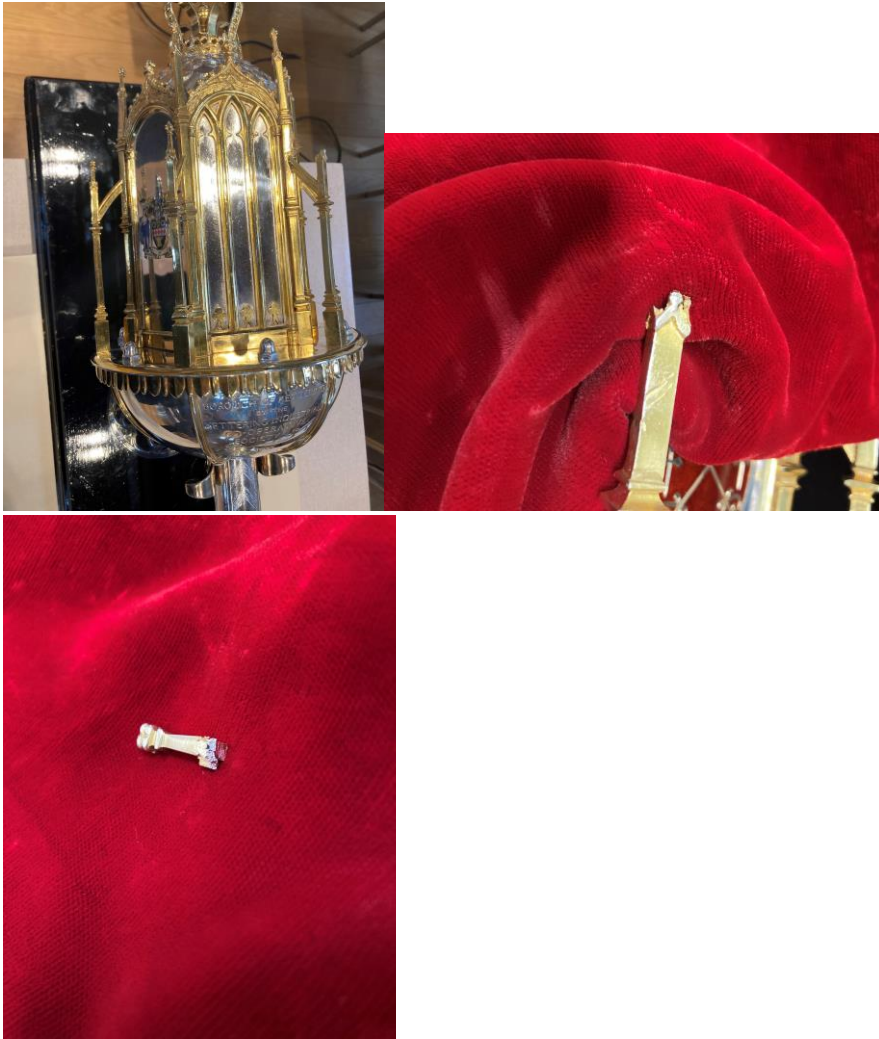
Each colour version of each piece of art will be supplied as a JPEG and PNG (for digital use) and a PDF (for print use). The PDF will contain vector art, which can be scaled to any size without loss of quality.

The cost of (a) is £2135 and the cost of (b) is £787.50.

- 4.3. Without this imagery, it will not be possible to update any of the chains of office or produce accurate material in print format. The chains of office currently show the old 1974-2021 coat of arms or, in the case of the replica chains, are blank. A quote has also been sought from specialists in Birmingham for the cost of updating the four real chains of office and the two replica chains for the Mayor and Deputy Mayor. The work to update the chains cannot be done without an accurate image of the coat of arms. The cost of work will be lower if just the shield is to be used rather than the whole coat of arms. There is no need to update the mace as the 1938-74 shield is displayed on it already.
- 4.4. Initial estimates for updating the real chains with new insignia are likely to prove prohibitive – at least £5500 for the Mayor's chains alone, largely because it is 9ct gold. It is therefore suggested that the only chain that should be updated is the replica Mayor's chain, with the pendant showing the shield. A quote in the sum of £1500 has been received from Vaughtons, who made the chains in the first place, and can match the new pendant to the old chains.

5. Mace

- 5.1. The mace needs some repairs to it and a quote has been sought for that; it is £2900. This clearly exceeds any available budget and will have to be agreed by full Council. Members' views are sought. Some pictures below show the damage.



6. Mayoral Cadet

- 6.1. The former KBC Mayor had adopted the practice of appointing a Mayoral cadet each year. This person would attend selected Mayoral events with the Mayor and be able to support the Mayor during those events if required. The cadet would be someone nominated by one of the uniformed services cadet branches and would be appointed each Annual Council. Members have asked if we could re-visit this practice.
- 6.2. The purpose of the appointment was to raise the profile of the cadet services, and to provide the appointed person with experience and insight into the Mayoralty and the work of the wider community of Kettering, and to make connections between organisations that the Mayor visited and cadet groups. Not every Mayor had a cadet in the relatively short time the practice was in place and Covid disrupted the practice in 2020. Most of the appointees were 16-18 years old, and not all of them were able to attend a good range of events. Not all cadet branches made nominations, although the original aim was for each of them to nominate in turn. It is assumed that the cadet will attend in uniform.

6.3. There are some issues with the operation of the Town Council's Mayoralty, compared with KBC's, in particular that there are safeguarding issues which would need to be formally addressed with a policy and practice, although these wouldn't be necessary if the appointees were over 18. The cadet would need to make their own way to Mayoral events, which might be a strain on the individual's family, and all those hosting the Mayor would need to give their consent to the cadet attending as well. Attendance at events where alcohol is served will need to be managed appropriately. There will be some administrative work involved in ensuring the cadet and hosts are advised about events and in identifying those which are appropriate for the cadet to attend. It would be necessary to identify those engagements that the cadet attended early in the year, to manage expectations and workload. The old KBC protocol is available and will need to be updated. A Certificate was produced for the appointed cadet each year.

7. Consultation and Engagement

No consultation has taken place with the cadet groups as yet re the appointment of a Mayoral cadet.

8. Finance, Legal and Resource Implications

8.1. The coat of arms budget this year is £1,100 and there is a provisional sum in for the 24/5 year, which can be fixed to meet the costs of the new pendant for the Mayors chain.

8.2. The mace is valued (2020) at approximately £80,000 and the several sets of chains for about £80,000 also. Other civic materials, including the robes, silver plate, secure display cabinets and paraphernalia are valued and insured for approximately another £20,000.

8.3. Up until now there has been a budget for "mayoral costs" and a budget for "branding and coat of arms", which together amount £3350. In reality some civic regalia costs have been borne from the Mayoral cost centre. It is suggested these are changed so that in future there is a budget as follows:-

- Mayoral expenses £1750
- Civic regalia and assets £1600

so that the former is more readily identifiable and available for use on Mayoral activities, functions and costs, and the latter is devoted to the upkeep of the Council's civic assets, which amount to nearly £180,000 in value.

9. Climate change implications

None

10. Policy Implications

The Council's policy is to support the Mayoralty as a means of generating civic pride and identify, and for the Mayor to embody and represent the town internally and externally.

Background Papers

Quotations from the College of Arms and their grant of arms
Correspondence with and quotes from Vaughtons, Birmingham
Old KBC Mayoral Cadet protocol and notes

