



Report to Leader

Decision Date:	30 November 2021
Reference number:	L06.21
Title:	Coat of Arms for Buckinghamshire Council
Relevant councillor(s):	Cllr Martin Tett, Leader
Author and/or contact officer:	Roger Goodes, Service Director, Policy and Communications
Ward(s) affected:	All
Recommendations:	To agree to the design of a new Coat of Arms for Buckinghamshire Council
Reason for decision:	The new council currently doesn't have a Coat of Arms, those from the old County Council are currently used by the Chairman of the Council and those from ss District Council by the Vice Chairman.

1. Background

- 1.1. The Shadow Executive who led the unitary implementation programme considered when they met on 18th June 2019 whether to commission a new Coat of Arms for the new council. They decided this was a decision that should be deferred until the new Buckinghamshire Council had been elected.
- 1.2. At a subsequent meeting on 10th December 2019 it was agreed as an interim measure that the former County Council coat of arms could be used for the new council's Chairman's badge of office as it represents the whole County and does not allude to the text Buckinghamshire County Council anywhere. This was matched with the Chain from the former South Bucks District Council as this also didn't allude to the previous council. In addition, new ribbon was purchased using a set of colours that were the amalgamation of the former council's ribbon colours.
- 1.3. This provided a low-cost solution pending a final decision following the election.

- 1.4. As the election was deferred until 2021 due to the Covid pandemic this interim solution has remained in place since Vesting Day on 1st April 2020.
- 1.5. In addition, there is also in use a County Badge. The County Badge seen below is used by a number of organisations in the county including the High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire, Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service, the Bucks County Show and scouting and guiding clubs in the County. Again it was decided this should remain pending a discussion by the new Council on whether this should be changed.



- 1.6. Following the election in May this year discussions have been held with Councillor Zahir Mohammed, Chairman and Cllr Martin Tett, Leader who have agreed that a new coat of arms be developed for the new council. They have also decided to retain the existing County Badge.

2. Design of a new Coat of Arms

- 2.1. The process to do so involves a specialist organisation, the College of Arms who on our behalf submit a formal petition to the Earl Marshall requesting a new coat of arms.
- 2.2. The new design will take into account key features of the existing coat of arms from the five legacy councils.
- 2.3. A one-off fee of £16,500 is payable which will cover the design of the coat of arms. This will be funded from unitary transitional funding which had been carried forward from vesting day. Additional costs will also be incurred in producing the badge of office and chain for the new coat of arms. This is estimated at £8,000 and will also be funded from the unitary transitional funding.
- 2.4. Once a design has been agreed the council will receive the grant document, the 'letters patent' – a large vellum charter-style document that displays the granted coat of arms and recites in formulaic terms the council's corporate history, the application for the grant of arms and the specifications of the design being granted. However, whilst we await this document we are free to use the design as soon as it has been agreed on both sides.

2.5. The new design will be agreed by a small design panel consisting of the Chairman, Leader and two Deputy Leaders.

3. Recommendation

3.1. To approve the design of a new Coat of Arms for Buckinghamshire Council.

4. Other options considered

4.1. The Council could continue with the interim measure or use any of the existing coat of arms. This wouldn't however create a new identity for the new council.

5. Legal and financial implications

5.1. No legal implications, the new coat of arms will be licensed to the council.

5.2. Financial implications are outlined in the report (see para 2.3).

6. Corporate implications

6.1. The new coat of arms will need to be used as appropriate

7. Consultation with local councillors & community boards

7.1. N/A

8. Communication, engagement & further consultation

8.1. N/A

9. Next steps and review

9.1. Commission the College of Arms to develop the new design.

9.2. Establish a small internal design panel to review and agree the new design.

10. Background papers

Shadow Executive Paper 18th June 2019 - Civic function options – Armorial bearings and Chains of Office for Buckinghamshire Council

Shadow Executive Paper 10th December 2019 - Civic and ceremonial arrangements for Buckinghamshire Council from 1 April 2020



11. Your questions and views (for key decisions)

11.1. If you have any questions about the matters contained in this report please get in touch with the author of this report.

