

Borough Charter and Armorial Bearings	16th August 2016
Corporate Policy and Resources Committee For decision	

Linkage to Council Strategy (2015-19)	
Strategic Theme	Leadership and Champion
Outcome	Providing civic leadership to our citizens
Lead Officer	Liz Johnston
Cost: (If applicable)	programme delivery costs, to be agreed, when initial report available. Est. Cost £14,500

The purpose of this report is to update members on progress with regard to the programme of work required to achieve the Borough Charter and Armorial Bearings for Council.

1.0 **Background:**

The Council resolved that the oldest borough status, that of Coleraine Borough Council, forms the basis of the application for borough status to the Minister of Environment.

Notice was given in the Belfast Gazette on 13th April 2015, as required under the provisions contained within Regulation 3(2) of The Local Government (Transitional, Incidental, Consequential and Supplemental Provision) Regulations (NI) 2015, to preserve and use the existing Borough Charter of Coleraine Borough Council to have effect for the new Causeway Coast and Glens Council area. This has the effect of designating Causeway Coast and Glens a Borough Council with effect from 1st April 2015”

2.0 **The Coleraine Borough Charter**

Research by our Museum Service revealed, however, that the original charter 28/6/1613 was lost through the Star Chamber Crisis 1635. In 1662 Charles II granted new charters, the original ones being lost in 1666 Great Fire of London.

Images of the Charter were obtained through City Archives Collection, London. The copy of the manuscript, which was very poor quality due to its age, has been transcribed and forwarded to the College of Arms for review. Following advice from the College and Council Solicitor it is hoped to be in a position to bring a report to Council soon to take the Charter forward.

3.0 **Armorial Bearings**

Research has been completed on aspects of the history and culture of the four legacy council areas and the four Armorial Bearings. Arms and crests, badges and supporters, are granted by letters patent issued by the most senior heralds, the Kings of Arms, They act according to powers delegated to them by the Crown and all grants are therefore made under Crown authority.

The first step in applying for a grant of arms is to submit a petition or memorial to the Earl Marshal. This will be drafted by one of the officers of arms. Fees are payable depending on work required. If the petition is approved the Earl Marshal will issue his Warrant to the King of Arms allowing them to proceed with the grant. At this stage the design of the arms will begin. The King of Arms have full discretion over the design of the armorial bearings they grant, which can include supporters and a badge, but the wishes of the applicant are taken into account as fully as possible. The badge is a separate emblem which can be used on stationery, uniform, cap badges, tie motifs, car pennants etc.

The estimated cost of design of the arms including supporters is £14,500. If Council wishes also to have a badge the cost is estimated at £2,000.

Members expressed an interest in being involved in this process.

4.0 **Recommendation:**

It is **recommended** that:

1. A sub committee be established to take forward the Charter project and contribution to the elements to be submitted to the College of Arms for consideration in the development of the Armorial Bearings.
2. The sub-committee might also usefully address the matter of Civic Photographs and Council memorabilia displayed by the legacy councils in their civic offices and develop a policy on the matter.