

Civic Crests

Report of Emma Alexander

Portfolio Responsibility: Customer Services - Cllr Mohammed Masud

October 2010

Officer Contact : Graham Dixon
Ext. 4028

Purpose of Report

To seek approval to procure the commissioning of coats of arms representing Oldham and the surrounding districts to be displayed in the Civic Entrance Reception area and in the Council Chamber.

Executive Summary

During the refurbishment of the reception and meeting rooms at the Civic Entrance Reception, the existing mosaic of the Borough's Coat of Arms was covered over. During the discussions around this at Joint Leadership, it was suggested that the possibility of commissioning the production and installation of coats of arms to be displayed at the top of the stairs leading to the Council Chamber should be explored. The coats of arms would represent the Borough of Oldham and the surrounding districts. Following a process of procurement and the development of outline proposals, Group Leaders agreed a report (attached at Appendix 1) to commission the work.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the procurement and installation of the crests is approved and included as a project in the capital programme 2010 – 2011.

Civic Crests

Report of Emma Alexander, Executive Director, Performance, Services and Capacity

Portfolio Responsibility: Customer Services - Cllr Mohammed Masud

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To seek approval to procure the commissioning of coats of arms representing Oldham and the surrounding districts to be displayed in the Civic Entrance Reception area and in the Council Chamber.

2 Recommendation

- 2.1 It is recommended that the procurement and installation of the crests is signed off and included as a project in the capital programme 2010 – 2011.

3 Background

- 3.1 During the refurbishment of the reception and meeting rooms at the Civic Entrance Reception, the existing mosaic of the Borough's Coat of Arms was covered over. During the discussions around this at Joint Leadership, it was suggested that the possibility of commissioning the production and installation of coats of arms to be displayed at the top of the stairs leading to the Council Chamber should be explored. The coats of arms would represent the Borough of Oldham and the surrounding districts.
- 3.2 As a result, research was undertaken and a report was first submitted to Joint Leadership on the 17th of December 2009. It was found that of the seven districts that make up the borough only Chadderton, Failsworth, Oldham and Royton had official coats of arms. Crompton used the Arms of the Lancashire County Council with an icon of a spinning wheel beneath it; Saddleworth used the white rose of Yorkshire, whilst Lees didn't have a civic crest.
- 3.3 Further research was requested, along with a procurement exercise to establish the cost of the project. A further report was submitted to Joint Leadership on the 25th of March 2010. At this meeting the principle of the project was agreed but further information was requested, in particular a visualisation of what the crests would look like in position on the wall. A mock up of the design was commissioned, and a final report went to Group Leaders on the 10th of June 2010 (attached at appendix 1) which recommended that the Charles Oldham proposal be approved at an estimated maximum cost of £21,000
- 3.4 Group Leaders agreed to the proposal and requested that a further set of the smaller sized crests be commissioned at the same time to be installed in the Council Chamber. It is estimated that this will add £9,000 to the original cost.

4 Current Position

- 4.1 In order to commission the work as requested, a budget of £30,000 maximum will need to be identified from the capital programme.

5 Financial Implications

5.1 Capital Implications

The scheme will be capital expenditure and be a charge against the Performance, Services and Capacity capital programme in 2010/11.

The scheme will be financed by Capital Receipts.

(Justine Cunniffe)

5.2 Revenue Implications

The potential maintenance costs for cleaning the crest will be in the region of £300 per annum and will be funded from the Civic Centre Budget (11500)

(Lisa Beach)

6 Legal Services Comments

- 6.1 Because the coats of arms will be sculptures and created rather than manufactured, the coats of arms would be bespoke and unique, the Contract Procedure Rules do not apply as a result of CPR 1.9.6. (Daniel Howard)

7 Procurement Implications

- 7.1 Procurement have managed the process and ensured the most cost effective solution through supplier negotiation and value engineering the specification. (Karen Lowes)

8 Background Papers

- 8.1 The following is a list of background papers on which this report is based in accordance with the requirements of Section 100(1) of the Local Government Act 1972. It does not include documents which would disclose exempt or confidential information as defined by the Act :

Name of File : Leadership Report 17th December

Name of File : Leadership report 25th March 2010

Records held in Facilities Management Service,

Officer Name : Graham Dixon

Contact No : 4025

21 Appendices

- 21.1 Appendix 1 – Group Leaders report June 2010.

Signed _____ Executive Director	Dated _____
Signed _____ Cabinet Member	Dated _____



Report to Group Leaders

Civic Entrance Reception: Coats of Arms

Report of the Executive Director – Performance Services and Capacity.

Portfolio Responsibility: Cllr Masud

June 2010

Officer Contact: Graham Dixon – Ext 4028

Civic Entrance reception – Coats of arms

Report of Executive Director, Performance Services and Capacity

Portfolio Responsibility: Cllr Masud

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To remind Group Leaders on the outcome of the market testing exercise recently undertaken for the commissioning of coats of arms representing Oldham and the surrounding districts to be displayed in the Civic Entrance Reception area, and to present images for scale purposes to give an indication of how the coats of arms would look in relation to each other.

2 Background

- 2.1 During the refurbishment of the reception and meeting rooms at the Civic Entrance Reception, the existing mosaic of the Borough's Coat of Arms was covered over. During the discussions around this at Joint Leadership, it was suggested that the possibility of commissioning the production and installation of coats of arms to be displayed at the top of the stairs leading to the Council Chamber should be explored. The coats of arms would represent the Borough of Oldham and the surrounding districts.
- 2.2 As a result, research was undertaken and a report was first submitted to Joint Leadership on the 17th of December 2009. It was found that of the seven districts that make up the borough only Chadderton, Failsworth, Oldham and Royton had official coats of arms. Crompton used the Arms of the Lancashire County Council with an icon of a spinning wheel beneath it; Saddleworth used the white rose of Yorkshire, whilst Lees didn't have a civic crest.
- 2.3 It was decided that a large central feature depicting the Borough crest would be surrounded by smaller representations of the coats of arms or civic crests of each of the seven districts.
- 2.4 Joint Leadership further requested that consultation take place with the Saddleworth and Lees community champion to determine which symbols should represent the civic crest of those districts.
- 2.5 As a result of the consultation exercise, it was determined that Saddleworth should be represented by a version of the white rose, and the Lees Civic crest should be based on the medallion worn by the Deputy Mayor of Lees (see appendix 1).
- 2.6 A market testing exercise was then undertaken. Because the coats of arms will be sculptures and created rather than manufactured, the coats of arms would be bespoke and unique. There are also a limited number of heraldic sculptors working with different materials, for example, wood, acrylic or bronze, so no two solutions would be the same.
- 2.7 Four heraldic artists were identified and a specification sent out to each of them. This requested their proposals and quotation to produce a main feature

approximately 1800mm high, representing the Oldham MBC coat of arms and seven smaller coats of arms approximately 450mm high representing each of the seven districts that came together in the 1974 amalgamation, which would surround the main feature.

2.8 Specifications were sent out to:-

- Charles Oldham Fine Wood Carving
- Bryan Rawlings Design
- Alexander Jones wood sculpture
- Ian G Brennan Contemporary Sculptor

2.9 As a result of the exercise, three proposals were returned, and a subsequent report was taken to Joint Leadership on the 25th of March 2010.

2.10 The proposal of Charles Oldham was to produce wood carvings using lime wood for the smaller coats of arms and Quebec pine for the large one, painted and gilded as required. The cost of the Charles Oldham proposal would be between £17,000 and £21,000.

2.11 Bryan Rawlings proposed to produce glass fibre reinforced polyester resin coats of arms, which would be painted or provided with various special finishes. The cost of these would be £17,180.

2.12 Alexander Jones proposed to carve all the pieces in different woods using their natural qualities to colour the sculptures gilding in gold and other metals to provide the high notes to the sculptures. The cost of this solution would be £75,000.

2.13 Ian Brennan did not return a proposal.

2.14 Each of the quotations included costs for research, consultation with the College of Arms, Local History Societies and the Council as necessary, all detail and design work, the creation of the works and final fixing on site.

2.15 Following consideration of the report, it was recommended that Charles Oldham be selected as the preferred artist. However, members expressed a desire to see an image of what the coats of arms may look like, so that an idea of scale can be had. A representation of this is at appendix 1. It should be noted that the image is only to give an idea of scale using existing artwork and that the finished coats of arms will be fully researched and agreed before manufacture and installation, along with the locations of the surrounding coats of arms.

2.16 Members also requested sight of an example of Charles Oldham's work, and a photograph of a previous commission is attached at Appendix 2.

3 Preferred Option

3.1 Members are asked to consider the proposals and approve the scaling of the coats of arms, and Charles Oldham as the suggested artist.

4 Financial Implications

4.1 Revenue Comments - Due to the significance of the costs involved (17k minimum) it would not be possible to fund this from the existing revenue budget 11500 without creating a pressure. An alternative method of funding will need to be identified. (K.Williams)

4.2 Capital Implications

The proposed purchase would be classed as capital expenditure as it would be classed as a Community Asset. However, there is no current provision in the capital programme for this expenditure, and a bid would need to be made to the Capital Programme. (Justine Cunniffe)

Appendix 1



Oldham
Council

Appendix 2

