

**Birmingham City Council**  
**Council Business Management Committee**  
24 August 2020



**Subject:** Request for the Use of the Coat of Arms  
**Report of:** Catherine Parkinson,  
Interim City Solicitor and Monitoring Officer  
**Report author:** Phil Wright  
Group Team Manager  
0121 303 0216  
phil.wright@birmingham.gov.uk

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If relevant, state which appendix is exempt, and provide exempt information paragraph number or reason if confidential:

**1 Executive Summary**

- 1.1 To consider an application by Mr Jeff Wilkes, Birmingham Hebrew Congregation, for the use of the Coat of Arms a small lapel badge.

**2 Recommendations**

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to determine the application.

**3 Request for the Use of the Coat of Arms by 'Threads Together' project**

- 3.1 Each year the Birmingham Hebrew Congregation have a civic service at the synagogue, next year being their 165th anniversary, and as part of the celebrations they are looking to produce a small lapel badge with their logo and incorporating the City Coat of Arms to be given to civic service visitors as a memento of the occasion. The badge would be produced locally in the jewellery quarter.
- 3.2 The email from Mr Wilkes adds "Our historical links are very close with the City with a number of our past members and associates being Lord Mayors, or who have served on the City Council and would be a fitting symbol of our ties."
- 3.3 A mock up of the badge is at Appendix 1

## **4 Background in Respect of the Use of The Birmingham Coat of Arms**

### **4.1 Section 73 of the West Midlands County Council Act 1980 provides that:**

“If any person without the consent of the local authority uses in connection with any trade, business, calling or profession any part of the armorial bearings of that authority, or any emblem or device closely resembling any such part, in a manner calculated to lead to the belief that he displays the part, emblem or device with the approval of that local authority, he may at the suit of the local authority be restrained by an injunction from continuing to use that part, emblem or device.”

### **4.2 The Coat of Arms is a dignity granted by Royal Charter and, as such, is not a property right. The Council cannot therefore license or authorise its use (by others) as such. All that the Council can do is to indicate whether it has any objection to its use. If the Council has no objection, then it would be safe to assume that it will not seek to restrain the use by way of an injunction.**

### **4.3 The Committee’s normal practice has been to indicate that the Council would object to the use of the Coat of Arms except on materials sponsored or produced by, or closely associated with, the Council or in other special circumstances.**