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**REPORT TO THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE 5 NOVEMBER 2008****PORTFOLIO: OVERALL STRATEGY & POLICY DIRECTION****REPORT FROM: CORPORATE POLICY & PARTNERSHIPS  
MANAGER****SUBJECT: CHAIN OF OFFICE****1 DECISION BEING RECOMMENDED**

- 1.1 To purchase a new Chain of Office for the Chairman of the Council and a cabinet to display the old Chain of Office.

**2 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 There is currently only one space available on the Chain of Office and more space is required to allow for future Chairmen's pendants. Over the past four years £1,827 has been spent on repairs to the Chain of Office, as due to its age, it is vulnerable to wear and tear.
- 2.2 The construction of the existing Chain of Office means it is not easily repairable. The back plate of the badge is of a thin gauge of metal with no edge wire, which allows the badge to be dented. In order to remove the dents and recover, the original shape must be hammered, filed, polished and regilded, resulting in the metal becoming even thinner. The separate components of the coat of Arms were originally fixed to the back plate by rivets. Renewing these involves soldering, which destroys the enamel. The components should be screwed together instead so that repairs can be carried out, leaving the enamel intact. Please see report from Christopher Lawrence, Silversmith (Appendix 1).
- 2.3 A new Chain of Office would cost approximately £2500 and should last for a further 24 years. The construction would be enamelled background, which would be protected from damage by the strong surround. The coat of arms would be fixed using screws instead of the current rivets which would allow it to be easily dismantled if ever necessary. The chain frame and the Bull would be gold plated and the remaining parts of the Arms, rhodium plated to prevent tarnishing.
- 2.4 The sample design shown in Appendix 2 has been suggested in line with the original design granted to Rochford District by the Royal College of Arms. This design shows the choice of the colour green and the repeat of the leaf motif on the chain to give contemporary feel.
- 2.5 If the chain was chosen a display cabinet would be needed to display past Chairman's pendants. The cabinet would have a padded velvet background, onto which the pendants could be pinned. The front of the cabinet would be

constructed of shatter proof glass and consequently could be displayed on the wall. Its estimated cost is approximately £120.

- 2.6 The new Chain of Office could have engraved all the Past Chairman's from, say, 2003/2004 to ensure continuity and be ready for the new Chairman in May 2009.

### **3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 3.1 One option which has been considered is the addition of a new third row. However the age, condition and construction of the existing chain makes that largely non viable. Also the weight of the existing chain is very heavy and to add a third row would only increase the weight.
- 3.2 Another option considered is therefore the removal of one row of pendants to be replaced with a new row of ten pendants, retaining the use of the existing Chain of Office. This would cost approximately £400, however recent maintenance and repair on the chain has averaged out to £500 per year, so whilst this might prove initially attractive, it is not felt to represent good value and could well prove more costly.
- 3.3 This option would only provide a solution for a maximum of ten years due to the number of pendants replaced. The age of the existing chain means it is quite weak, as evidenced by the many repairs over the last four years, and its construction using rivets makes it difficult to mend, meaning it may well last less than the maximum ten years.
- 3.4 A display cabinet would still be required to display those pendants removed.

### **4 RISK IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 Assessment for valuation Insurance would be required for any new chain.

### **5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 A new Chain of Office will cost approximately £2500. Based on recent maintenance/repair costs for the existing Chain of Office, the costs should be recouped in four to five years and the new Chain of Office should last for twenty four years.
- 5.2 A Display Cabinet is estimated to cost £120.
- 5.3 The option of engraving 4 years of past Chairmen should cost approximately £30.00 each.

SMT Lead Officer Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**CORPORATE POLICY & PARTNERSHIPS MANAGER**

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**Background Papers:-**

None.

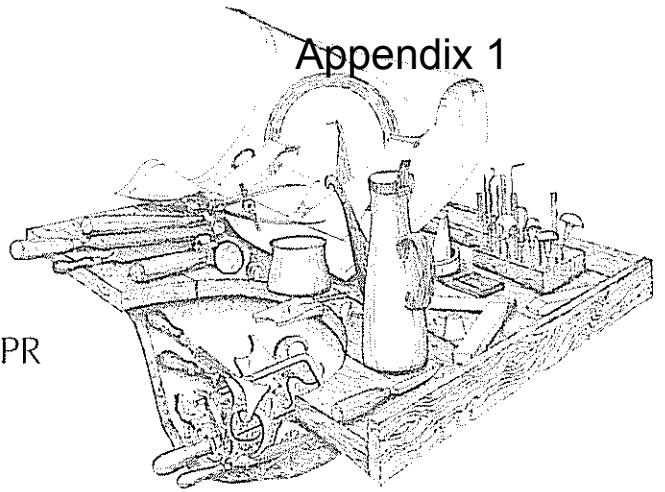
For further information please contact Julia Mitchell, Civic Officer on:-

Tel: - 01702 318144

E-Mail:- [julia.mitchell@rochford.gov.uk](mailto:julia.mitchell@rochford.gov.uk)

If you would like this report in large print, braille or another language please contact 01702 546366.

# Christopher Lawrence Ltd



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Julia Mitchell  
Rochford District Council  
Council Offices  
South Street  
Rochford SS4 1BW

Rochford District Council  
- 1 OCT 2008  
Corporate Policy Unit

29th September 2008

Dear Julia

Re: Chairman's Badge of Office.

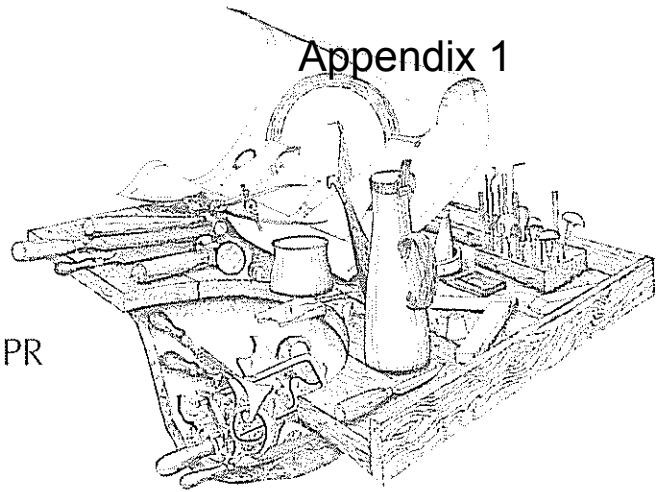
According to my records £1,827.50 (excl. of VAT) has been spent on repairs and refurbishment of the above over the past four years to keep it in a useable condition.

The reasons for this are as follows:

1. The back plate is of a thin gauge of metal with no edge wire, allowing it to be dented on numerous occasions. In order to remove dents and recover the original shape it must be hammered, filed, polished and regilded, resulting in the metal becoming even thinner.
2. The separate components of the Coat of Arms were originally fixed to the back plate by rivets. Renewing these involves soldering which destroys the enamel. The components should be screwed together instead so that repairs can be carried out, leaving the enamel intact.

cont.....

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3. The enamel, being made of glass, should be protected from knocks, etc. by being inset in a strong, metal frame.

I hope this is helpful and I look forward to explaining more fully if necessary at the meeting on 5th November.

Regards

Yours sincerely

