

**STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE  
11 SEPTEMBER 2007**

**COUNCIL FLAG**

**REPORT BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**ABSTRACT**

This report gives details of a Council flag that can be produced based on the Council's Coat of Arms for flying on or at key Council buildings.

**1. RECOMMENDATION**

The Committee is asked to consider whether it would wish to produce a Council flag based on the Council's Coat of Arms for flying at key Council buildings throughout Angus.

**2. BACKGROUND**

The matter of flag flying is one for individual local authorities to determine. However, the Royal Standard may not be flown without permission from The Queen. At present the Saltire is flown on key Council buildings within each of the burghs and is only replaced by the Union flag on Remembrance Day or for certain Royal events. It has been suggested that it would be more appropriate for a flag that represents Angus uniquely to be flown at key Council buildings and for this flag to be based on the Council's Coat of Arms.

The Angus Coat of Arms consists of a shield quartered with the arms of the four ancient earldoms of Angus, and a coronet above. Below the shield is the Angus motto *Lippen on Angus* which simply means Depend on Angus. The coronet above the shield represents the rural and urban responsibilities of Angus Council.

The design and size of such flags is controlled by the Court of the Lord Lyon who stipulates that the Coat of Arms of a Local Authority that has been granted Arms by the Lord Lyon should fill the whole rectangular shape of the flag i.e. the quartered shield with the arms of the four ancient earldoms would fill the flag right to its edges as though it was a rectangular shield. No other aspect of the Coat of Arms can be included on the flag including, in Angus' case, the coronet or motto "Lippen on Angus".

The design of the flag would therefore be as follows:-



For the Committee's information the **first quarter** (top left) is a crowned lion passant (walking lion), and represents Gillebride, the second Earl of Angus in the 12<sup>th</sup> century who fought under David I at the Battle of the Standard in 1138. Gillebride was a descendent of Gilbert who is believed to have been created Earl of Angus by Malcolm Canmore at Forfar in 1061.

The **second quarter** (top right) the cinquefoil – five leafed plant – is the shield of the D'Umfravilles who acquired the Angus title by marriage in 13th century. The family arms were azure (blue) and or (yellow) which are the colours of the Forfar burgh coat of arms today.

The title was forfeited by the D'Umfravilles to Robert the Bruce and at the coronation of his successor, David II in 1328, was conferred on Sir John Stewart of Bonkyl. The checked strip crossed with buckled belt in the **third quarter** (bottom left) represent the Stewart arms.

The Angus title eventually passed to the Douglas family through the marriage of Margaret Countess of Mar to William Earl of Douglas about 1381. Later James Douglas sailed with the heart of Robert the Bruce from Montrose to the Holy Land. Sir James was killed in battle against the Moors in Spain and the heart was brought back to Scotland and buried in Melrose Abbey. The Douglas Coat bears the heart of Robert the Bruce which is depicted in the **fourth quarter** (bottom right).

### **3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The cost of producing such flags, which are available from a specialist maker, is £450 each. It is suggested that an initial supply of 10 flags would be required at a total cost of £4,500, the cost of which can be met from the Members Services budget within the Chief Executive's Department.

### **4. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS**

There are no human rights implications associated with this report.

### **5. CONSULTATION**

The Director of Corporate Services, Head of Law & Administration and Head of Finance have been consulted on the terms of this report.

D S Sawers  
Chief Executive

HMR/GM/BAK  
31 August 2007

**NOTE:** No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above Report.

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