
Report To:	Education & Communities Committee	Date:	1 November 2022
Report By:	Corporate Director Education, Communities and Organisational Development	Report No:	EDUCOM/50/22/AW
Contact Officer:	Alana Ward, Service Manager	Contact No:	01475 712330
Subject:	Gourock Burgh Coat of Arms Proposals		

1.0 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

1.1 For Decision For Information/Noting

1.2 The purpose of this report is to:

(1) Update the Committee on work which has taken place to examine the logistics of applying Inverclyde's Historical Links to Slavery Working Group's proposals to remove the Gourock Burgh coat of arms from display where practicable and cover or produce additional information on the coat of arms in any location where removal or covering may prove problematic; and

(2) Seek approval from the Committee to go ahead with the recommended options following an options appraisal, and carry out further community engagement on this matter, including the consideration of creating a new coat of arms for the Gourock area.

1.3 Following the results of a public consultation and recommendations from Inverclyde's Historical Links to Slavery's Working Group that the Gourock Burgh coat of arms, likely depicting an enslaved man, was offensive, the Education and Communities Committee, at its meeting of 25 January 2022, agreed to its removal from Council-owned/controlled properties where practicable. Officers have since been examining the logistics of removing it from display, or covering it, on a case-by-case basis.

1.4 There are six known instances of the Gourock Burgh coat of arms on display on Council-owned/controlled property. Following an options appraisal, it is proposed that this Committee agrees to the following actions:

Location	Recommended Action
Gourock Municipal Buildings	Remove figure and blank fascia
Provost's Lamp Post, Shore St	Remove coat of arms
Gamble Halls, Gourock	Remove coat of arms
Gourock Pavilion	Remove coat of arms
Dardanelles Memorial Window, Watt Institution	Remove window
Gourock War Memorial	No changes to memorial

- 1.5 In addition, further work could take place on engaging with bodies responsible for other instances of the coat of arms, and also on examining the feasibility of creating a new coat of arms for the Gourock area, which would be the subject of a further report to this Committee.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee agrees to the removal of the figure and hand and the blanking of the fascia of the coat of arms above the entrance to the Gourock Municipal Buildings.
- 2.2 It is recommended that the Committee agrees to the removal of the acrylic panes containing the coat of arms and the temporary replacement of these with plain acrylic on the Provost's Lamp Post on Shore St, Gourock.
- 2.3 It is recommended that the Committee agrees to the removal of the coat of arms from the side entrance of the Gamble Halls and from the top of the pavilion at Gourock Park.
- 2.4 It is recommended that the Committee acknowledges and thanks the Dardanelles Memorial Fund for the fundraising efforts and commission of the Dardanelles Memorial Window in the Watt Institution, and that, at the request of the Dardanelles Memorial Fund Committee, it is recommended that the Committee agrees to the removal of the window and its return to the Dardanelles Memorial Fund Committee.
- 2.5 It is recommended that the Committee agrees to leave the coat of arms on the Gourock War Memorial as there is no figure in this version.
- 2.6 It is recommended that the Committee remits officers to investigate the feasibility of creating a new coat of arms for the Gourock area.
- 2.7 It is recommended that the Committee remits the Corporate Director Education, Communities and Organisational Development to engage with the responsible bodies for other instances of the coat of arms in the Inverclyde area (see Appendix 3).

Ruth Binks

Corporate Director Education, Communities and Organisational Development

3.0 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

3.1 At its meeting of 16 June 2020, the Policy and Resources Executive Sub-Committee considered a report (GM/LP/069/2020) by the Head of Legal & Property Services on a request received from Cllr McCabe in response to the concerns raised by the Black Lives Matter campaign relative to Scotland's links to the slave trade. It was decided:

- (1) that a report should be submitted on Inverclyde's historical connections to the slave trade and the ways in which these connections can be recognised in today's society including recommendations as to how community reparations could be made.
- (2) that consultation be carried out with all relevant community organisations and the ward members relative to the former Gourock Burgh Council coat of arms, and that the result of these consultations be included in the report set out in (1) above.

3.2 At its meeting of 1 September 2020, the Education and Communities Committee approved a report (EDUCOM/44/20/AW) proposing the formation of a working group to examine Inverclyde's historical connections to slavery. The working group was established in early 2021 and met throughout the course of that year to look at issues arising from local links to the slave trade.

3.3 At its meeting of 25 January 2022, the Education and Communities Committee considered a report (EDUCOM/04/22/AW) by the working group which examined Inverclyde's historical links to slavery and made recommendations for further actions. The Committee agreed:

- (1) that the work completed by the working group so far be noted and that officers be commended for the depth of research which had gone into the report;
- (2) that the work of the Inclusive Education curriculum sub-group be noted;
- (3) that it be agreed (a) that the Gourock Burgh coat of arms be removed from display or covered on a case by case basis where practicable; and (b) to produce additional information on the coat of arms in any location where removal or covering may prove problematic; and
- (4) that it be remitted to officers to submit a further report examining the logistics of applying the Working Group's proposals, and suggesting ideas for further community engagement on this matter.

3.4 Report EDUCOM/04/22/AW set out a proposed process to be carried out for each instance of the display of the coat of arms on Council-owned property:

- Assessment of the practical and cost implications for any action;
- Any building standards, listed building or other planning implications;
- Any title or other legal constraints that may apply;
- Obtaining consent of any tenants or other parties with an interest in the property in question;
- Any further Committee approvals that may be required (actions with budget implications may require to be remitted to the appropriate service committee).

3.5 Following approval of report EDUCOM/04/22/AW, the working group has been divided into a number of sub-groups to take forward the recommendations, including a group looking at the recommendations relative to the Gourock Burgh coat of arms. The proposals below represent the work of the sub-group looking at the Gourock Burgh coat of arms. The group was Chaired by the Corporate Director Education, Communities and Organisational Development, and group members were drawn from Cultural, Planning and Property Services.

3.6 Following approval of report EDUCOM/04/22/AW, one further instance of the Gourock Burgh coat of arms being displayed in Council-owned properties has come to light; it is displayed on the

Gourock War Memorial. The approach set out above will also be followed for any other locations that may be identified in future.

4.0 PROPOSALS

4.1 Table 1 shows the location, implications, options, recommendations, and justifications for further action on each instance of display of the Gourock Burgh coat of arms. Pictures of each location can be found in Appendix 1.

Table 1 – Locations, implications, options, recommendations and justifications

Location	Cost/Planning/Legal implications	Options	Recommendations	Justification
Gourock Municipal Buildings	<p>£1,000 for a stonemason to erect a scaffold, remove the figure, and blank the fascia of the coat of arms.</p> <p>Building owned by Inverclyde Council.</p> <p>Listed building consent required. Officers to contact Historic Environment Scotland (HES) to progress.</p>	<p>A – Leave in situ with interpretation of the Gourock Burgh coat of arms (Appendix 2).</p> <p>B – Remove figure, hand, and blank the fascia of the coat of arms.</p>	B - Remove figure and blank the fascia of the coat of arms.	Cost and further approvals needed are minimal. Removal not problematic and therefore recommended to progress.
Provost Lamp Post, Shore St, Gourock	<p>Lamp post is due for refurbishment because of corrosion and change to LED. The Head of Shared Services Roads has agreed that the roads department can contain the cost within its standard work.</p> <p>Lamp post owned by Inverclyde Council.</p> <p>No planning/legal implications.</p>	<p>A – Remove acrylic panes containing coat of arms and replace with plain acrylic.</p> <p>B – Remove acrylic panes containing coat of arms and temporarily replace with plain acrylic until a new coat of arms for Gourock is approved for use and can be applied to the acrylic panes of the lamp post.</p>	B - Remove acrylic panes containing coat of arms and temporarily replace with plain acrylic until a new coat of arms for Gourock is approved for use and can be applied to the acrylic panes of the lamp post.	Cost and further approvals needed are minimal. Removal not problematic and therefore recommended to progress.

<p>Gamble Halls, Shore St, Gourock</p>	<p>No implications</p>	<p>A – Remove</p>	<p>A – Remove</p>	<p>No cost or further approvals needed for removal. Removal not problematic and therefore recommended to progress.</p>
<p>Pavilion, Gourock Park, Gourock</p>	<p>No implications</p>	<p>A - Remove</p>	<p>A - Remove</p>	<p>No cost or further approvals needed for removal. Removal not problematic and therefore recommended to progress.</p>
<p>Dardanelles Memorial Window, Watt Institution, Greenock</p>	<p>The cost of removing the window and replacing with leaded glass to match the surround is £3,220.</p> <p>Building owned by Inverclyde Council in its capacity as Trustee of the Watt Institution. Window commissioned and paid for by Dardanelles Memorial Fund.</p> <p>Listed building consent required. Officers to contact Historic Environment Scotland (HES) to progress.</p>	<p>A – Leave it in situ with interpretation of the Gourock Burgh coat of arms (Appendix 2) Possible to link to the Dardanelles Memorial Fund’s fuller narrative via QR code.</p> <p>B – Remove the section of the window containing the coats of arms.</p> <p>C – Remove entire window and return to Dardanelles Memorial Fund</p>	<p>C – Remove entire window and return to Dardanelles Memorial Fund.</p>	<p>The Dardanelles Memorial Fund have specifically requested that the window be returned to them.</p> <p>The consent of the Council, as Trustee of the Watt Institution, would be required for this removal.</p>

Gourock War Memorial	Approx. £500 to blank fascia. Ownership of the Gourock War Memorial can be researched if necessary. Listed building consent.	A – Leave in situ.	A – Leave in situ.	The figure is not on this version of the coat of arms and thus removal and/or interpretation are unnecessary.
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4.2 It is also proposed that officers will work towards an application to the Court of the Lord Lyon in Edinburgh for the establishment of a new coat of arms for the Gourock area which can be used in place of the Gourock Burgh coat of arms. The cost of creating a new coat of arms is likely to be a maximum of £2,925. This would then be the subject of a further report to this Committee.

4.3 It is also proposed that where there are instances of the Gourock Burgh coat of arms in places not owned or controlled by the Council, the Corporate Director Education, Communities and Organisational Development will engage with the owners or responsible persons around the use of the coat of arms. A draft letter for this purpose has been prepared (Appendix 3).

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendation(s) is(are) agreed:

SUBJECT	YES	NO	N/A
Financial	X		
Legal/Risk		X	
Human Resources		X	
Strategic (LOIP/Corporate Plan)	X		
Equalities & Fairer Scotland Duty	X		
Children & Young People's Rights & Wellbeing		X	
Environmental & Sustainability		X	
Data Protection		X	

5.2 Finance

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
EMR	Covid-19 – Recovery of Cultural Events EMR		£1,000 for Gourock Municipal Buildings; £2,925 to create a new coat of arms; £3,220 to remove Dardanelles		Up to £40,000 has already been allocated to the Historical Links to Slavery reparatory plan, of which the financial implications in this paper form a part. If the Committee agrees to the recommendations contained within this report, the costs shown

			memorial window and replace with plain glass = £7,145		here will be funded as part of this £40,000; this report is not seeking additional funds.
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Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments
N/A					

5.3 Legal/Risk

There are no known Legal implications contained within this report. All necessary planning and building consents will be sought prior to work being undertaken.

5.4 Human Resources

There are no known Human Resources implications contained within this report.

5.5 Strategic

The proposals in this report help deliver LOIP priority 3 – Inverclyde’s environment, culture, and heritage will be protected and enhanced to create a better place for all Inverclyde residents and an attractive place in which to live, work and visit and Corporate Plan priority 8 – to preserve, nurture and promote Inverclyde’s unique culture and heritage.

5.6 Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty

The proposals in this report help deliver two elements of the general equality duty, namely:

- Advance equality of opportunity between people from different groups
- Foster good relations between people from different groups

(a) Equalities

This report has been considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) process with the following outcome:

X	YES – Assessed as relevant and an EqIA is required.
	NO – This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, assessed as not relevant and no EqIA is required. Provide any other relevant reasons why an EqIA is not necessary/screening statement.

(b) Fairer Scotland Duty

If this report affects or proposes any major strategic decision:-

Has there been active consideration of how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome?

	YES – A written statement showing how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage has been completed.
X	NO – Assessed as not relevant under the Fairer Scotland Duty for the following reasons: the proposals contained within this report do not reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage.

5.7 **Children and Young People**

Has a Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES – Assessed as relevant and a CRWIA is required.
X	NO – Assessed as not relevant as this report does not involve a new policy, function or strategy or recommends a substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy which will have an impact on children's rights.

5.8 **Environmental/Sustainability**

Summarise any environmental / climate change impacts which relate to this report.

There are no environmental/climate change impacts arising from the proposals contained within this report.

Has a Strategic Environmental Assessment been carried out?

	YES – assessed as relevant and a Strategic Environmental Assessment is required.
X	NO – This report does not propose or seek approval for a plan, policy, programme, strategy or document which is like to have significant environmental effects, if implemented.

5.9 **Data Protection**

Has a Data Protection Impact Assessment been carried out?

X

YES – This report involves data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.

NO – Assessed as not relevant as this report does not involve data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.

6.0 CONSULTATION




- 6.1 Inverclyde’s Historical Links to Slavery working group carried out a significant public consultation as part of its work, including a targeted consultation specifically on the Gourock Burgh coat of arms with Gourock ward members, Gourock community councils, the Gourock communication and engagement group, the Gourock Regeneration Forum, other community groups in the Gourock area, and the two secondary schools in Gourock: Clydeview Academy and St Columba’s High School. Of 127 views expressed about the coat of arms, 77 (61%) people were in favour of its removal and 50 (39%) were in favour of its retention. Full results of the consultations can be found in Education and Communities Committee Report EDUCOM/04/22/AW.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 Equalities Impact Assessment – <https://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/council-and-government/equality-impact-assessments/equality-impact-assessments-2022>

Appendix 1
Gourock Coat of Arms Locations

GOUROCK COAT OF ARMS – LOCATIONS

<p>Gourock Municipal Buildings Shore Street Gourock</p> <p>Coat of arms carved in stone above the entrance. Sable man and hand with dagger sit separately from shield.</p>	
<p>Provost lamp post Shore Street Gourock</p> <p>Lamp installed 1995; panes are acrylic and easily removable / replaceable. Coat of arms on the acrylic part of the lamp.</p>	
<p>Gamble Halls Shore Street Gourock</p> <p>Coat of arms above side door. Easily removed.</p>	

Pavilion
Gourock Park
Gourock

Coat of arms on top of the pavilion facing into the park. Easily removed.



Dardanelles Memorial Window
Watt Institution
Greenock

Coat of arms featuring the figure and hand holding a dagger is on one section of the window which features the Burghs of Greenock, Gourock and Port Glasgow coats of arms.

Gourock War Memorial
Albert Road
Gourock

Coat of arms on side of memorial. Figure is not featured on this coat of arms.



Appendix 2

The Gourock Burgh Coat of Arms

The Gourock Arms, granted in 1954, is made up of arms from the Stewart and the Darroch families. The Darrochs were successful businessmen with estates in the West Indies who bought the estate of Gourock from the Stewarts in 1784.

The Darroch arms date from 1794. Part of their arms depicts the heraldic symbol of a 'demi sable man' here holding a dagger. In 1958 in his 'The Story of Gourock 1858-1958' the author Colin Milne relates a story of a rebellion of the enslaved on Darroch's West Indies estates. He describes the 'demi sable man' as being the rebellion's leader attempting to take his own life when faced with capture. This is the only known record of this story and so far no evidence has been found to support it.

In the eighteenth century the trade in enslaved peoples was a profitable business for the port cities of Britain. In Scotland, at first, it had been the trade in salted herring, exported as a cheap food for the plantation workers that connected Scottish ports to this trade. Ultimately Scottish ports became key players in what became known as the 'triangular trade'. This trade saw goods shipped from British ports to be traded in Africa. These goods were then replaced by enslaved peoples as cargo on the horrendous journey west across the Atlantic. These people were forcibly taken from their homes and sold to work the sugar, tobacco and cotton plantations of the Caribbean and America. Finally the goods produced by enslaved labour were shipped back to the British Isles for sale and distribution. The ports of the Clyde, as a developing maritime and trading powerhouse, were at the heart of the 'triangular trade' in goods tied to enslavement. Great fortunes were made through first exporting herring and then importing goods such as tobacco and sugar and this helped drive the industrial and civic development of the area.

As part of the process of Inverclyde examining its historic links to the trade in enslaved peoples, the arms, with its depiction of what many see as an enslaved person was identified by the public as a key issue to be addressed.

Following public consultation with the people of Gourock and those within our communities with lived experience of racism it was decided that it was no longer appropriate to represent our inclusive communities with a coat of arms that includes a figure that to many is a visual embodiment of the horrors of enslavement.

Whilst we may never know the exact reason behind the inclusion of the 'demi sable man' and what it represents, it was decided to remove the arms from public display wherever possible and where not, to tell the story of how the arms are part of Inverclyde's historic links to the trade in enslaved peoples so viewers can better understand Inverclyde's complex history.

Appendix 3

Suggested text for letter to bodies responsible for display of Gourock Coat of Arms

Dear Sirs,

Ref – Gourock Burgh coat of arms

I write in respect of the Gourock Burgh coat of arms, which may be displayed in one of your properties/on your correspondence/etc. [insert/delete as appropriate]

In 2020, Inverclyde Council requested that officers submit a report on Inverclyde's historical connections to slavery and the ways in which these connections can be recognised in today's society including recommendations as to how community reparations can be made. It further decided that consultation be carried out with relevant community organisations and the Ward Members relative to the Gourock Burgh Council coat of arms, which may depict an enslaved man, and that the result of these consultations be included in the report.

I enclose a copy of the full report which was approved at the Education and Communities Committee on 25 January 2022. In summary, there were 205 respondents to the consultation on the Gourock Burgh coat of arms, 50 respondents felt the arms should be retained and 77 respondents felt the coat of arms should be changed or removed (23 respondents didn't know). Representations were made to Inverclyde's Historical Links to Slavery Working Group by people of colour that the depiction of a likely enslaved man on the coat of arms was offensive, hurtful, and unwelcoming. The report therefore recommended that the Gourock Burgh coat of arms should be removed from display, or covered on a case by case basis where practicable, or that the council would produce additional information on the coat of arms in any location where removal or covering may prove problematic.

This was a decision made by the Education and Communities Committee of Inverclyde Council and as such it only affects the coat of arms as displayed on Council-owned properties. It is entirely your decision whether to take similar action, or continue displaying the coat of arms on your properties/on your correspondence/etc. [insert/delete as appropriate]. However, I felt it was appropriate to let you know about the decision of the Council, and the reasons behind it, and would encourage you to give consideration to a similar course of action.

I can also advise that Council officers are currently investigating the feasibility of creating a new coat of arms for the Gourock area.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any queries about this correspondence.

Yours sincerely

Ruth Binks
Corporate Director Education, Communities and Organisational Development

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