

Policy & Resources Committee

Title: Ceremonial Robes – Options and Costings Paper

Date: 30th August 2022

Contact Officer: Cassie Pinnells, Community Services Manager

Purpose of Report

1. To outline the research and costs to the council regarding the potential purchase of civic robes for the councillors/members.

Research

2. In terms of precedent, many councils across the country have already taken the decision and purchased civic robes. Henley & Wallingford (in Oxfordshire) and Aylesbury (in Buckinghamshire) are more local examples of this.
3. Civic robes are commonly used in ceremonies such as Civic services, Remembrance Sunday, special parades and annual meetings.
4. There are potential opportunities to wear robes in formal and informal settings, which may increase visibility and interest in both the reputation, and role of the council.

Costs

5. The indicative costs in this report are based on a quote from one established company, as suppliers of civic robes to councils and other bodies around the country.
6. A summary of the quotation is detailed below in **Table 1**. The prices include the clothing items themselves as well as recommended storage equipment.
7. Payment plans up to 5 years are available should they wish to be considered.
8. The costs of any Civic Robes would require funding from General Reserves.

Products

9. Clothing items are all at 60" chest size for both comfort and easy fitting, due to the nature of civic dress. Lengths range from 48" to 54".
10. Robes are not worn often and so are low maintenance if stored correctly in a dry place and on hangers. Therefore, they should not accrue significant cleaning costs.
11. Swatches and cloth examples can be made available to the meeting for review if required.

Resource Appraisal

Table 1 – Cost summary of recommended products based on Thame Town Council

Officer	Item	Cost
Town Clerk	Robe, wig, case, neck tabs	£2590.55
Mayor	Robe, bicorn, tricorn, 2 x jabots	£2913.50
Deputy Mayor	Robe, bicorn, tricorn, 2 x jabots	£2784.55
Councillor robes	14 robes	£9450.00
Clothes rail	Heavy duty	£223.75
Hangers (extra large)	20 (twenty)	£59.95
Dehumidifier bags	3 wardrobe bags	£14.50
Misc	Gloves x 6, Sleeves x 2	£308.70
	Total (ex VAT)	£18,345.50

Risk Assessment

12. There are no known legal risks to the purchase of civic robes.

13. The Council remain accountable to the public and the purchase of formal attire for civic duty should be balanced against the cost implications.

Legal Powers:

- Local Government Act 1972, s145
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- Localism Act 2011 s1 General Power of Competence

Recommendation

It is recommended:

That a recommendation to Full Council that Civic Robes are considered for purchase by Thame Town Council.