



### Bath City Council

**The Motto:** Aquae Sulis: The Waters of Sul, the Roman name for the city. The earliest record of the Arms appears in William Smith's Particular Description of England, which is now in the British Museum. The date of the map of Bath contained in this manuscript is assumed to be the same as the map of Bristol dated 30th/31st July 1568. The map of Bath depicts the Arms as they appear today.

#### Use of the Arms and Badge:

- The Arms are registered in the name of the City Council, who have no authority to grant their use to any other body, either as a full achievement, or in part, e.g. shield only.
- Permission may be granted for the reproduction of the full achievement, the shield only, or the City badge, on certain souvenirs. Only the badge can be used on ties and blazer badges for sale to the general public, as only members and officials of the Council are entitled to wear the arms on ties and blazer badges.
- The badge, with the permission of the Council, may be used by organisations wishing to show their affiliation to Bath by using the badge in conjunction with the name, or initials, of the organisation concerned, or on ties and blazer badges in the same manner.
- When the arms or badge is used to decorate souvenirs, the words "City of Bath" should be used either above or below the emblem.
- It is an infringement of the Patent to use, reproduce, or display the City Arms or badge in any way, without first obtaining written permission from the Clerk to the Charter Trustees.

**The Bearers:** A lion and a bear, sometimes shackled, standing on acorns. The acorns are a link to the story of Bladud, legendary founder of Bath. They are also a prominent architectural feature of Bath. The keys are those of St Peter, one of the Patron Saints of the Abbey.

**The Crest:** Commemorates the coronation of King Edgar in 973. The crown is held aloft by sleeved hands copied from those of St Dunstan in the Edgar Window in the Abbey.

**The Shield:** Depicts the Borough Wall, the mineral springs and the River Avon. The sword is that of St Paul, one of the Patron Saints of the Abbey

**Bath City Council in Avon:** Was a County Borough Council until local government reorganisation in 1974 when it became a non-metropolitan 'District Council' administering the city of Bath.

Elections were first held on 10 May 1973, with the authority taking effect on 1 April 1974. Following the second election to the district council, the election saw terms of councillors extended from three to four years with subsequent elections for the council taking place in thirds, and the last such election was in 1994.

On 1 April 1996, the city council was abolished when it was merged with Wansdyke District Council to form the new unitary authority of Bath and North East Somerset.

The creation of new Unitary Councils in the last few years has resulted in more town or City Councils being abolished, with the potential loss of Mayoralty after a period of several hundred years. The Charter Trustees Regulations 1996 were brought into force, and on 1st April 1996, the City of Bath and the Towns of Beverley, Cleethorpes, Great Grimsby and Scunthorpe became Charter Trustee Towns. The City of Hereford was added in 1998. The numbers of Councillors and the percentage of Charter Trustees within the principal Council varies enormously. This can vary from 28 Charter Trustees in 59 Councillors in the case of Bath to 5 in 67 in Beverley.

Many of the original Towns have subsequently achieved Parish status and now have a Town Council with a Mayor – Banbury, Beverley, Bridgwater, Daventry, Dover, Deal, Folkstone, Hereford, Leamington Spa, Newbury and Weston-super-Mare for example. However, 12 of the original towns remain Charter Trustees. These are Bexhill-on-Sea, Burton-on-Trent, East Retford, Grantham, High Wycombe, Kidderminster, Lowestoft, Mansfield, Margate, New Sarum (Salisbury), Ramsgate and Worksop.

In England and Wales, charter trustees are set up to maintain the continuity of a town charter or city charter after a district with the status of a borough or city has been abolished, until such time as a parish council is established. Duties are limited to ceremonial activities such as the election of a mayor, and various other functions depending upon local customs and laws.