

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Health

PROPOSAL FOR THE PROVISION OF CHRISTMAS LIGHTS 20221. Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to outline the proposal regarding the provision of Christmas lighting for this coming Christmas 2022

2. Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to RESOLVE that the proposal is approved, including a total contribution of £10,000 each to Eastwood and Kimberley Town Councils towards their Christmas tree, festive lights and the associated light switch-on festivities.

3. Detail

The proposal is for a simplified provision for Christmas lights and associated festivities that reflects the festive season, whilst at the same time recognising the rising energy costs that everyone is experiencing at present.

The proposal for Christmas 2022 follows discussions with Eastwood, Kimberley and Stapleford Town Councils. It has been proposed that for this year and for the following two years, Broxtowe Borough Council will provide the sum of £10,000 for each town (to include Beeston). Within this amount, the Council will supply and install a suitable Christmas tree via Contractors. The budget estimate for each tree is between £1,500 to £1,750. The balance remaining of the £10,000 award will be for the respective Town Councils to use to provide lights for the tree and any associated festivities they wish to arrange.

Cabinet recently agreed proposals to transfer the Cultural Services Team back to the Council from Liberty Leisure. The team currently works in partnership with Stapleford and Eastwood Town Councils to arrange Christmas Lights switch on events, with both the Town Councils and the Borough Council contributing to the cost of the event and the Cultural Services Team managing the events. The team also arranges the Beeston Christmas Light Switch on event. Kimberley Town Council arranges their own event. No changes are proposed to this arrangement.

Eastwood and Kimberley Town Councils both wish to pursue this proposal. Stapleford Town Council has chosen not to pursue the proposal this year. Broxtowe Borough Council will therefore provide the tree and lighting for Beeston and Stapleford and organise the arrangements and associated festivities.

Because of timing, the trees have been ordered and Contractors are delivering and installing the trees on the 14 November for Kimberley, Stapleford and Eastwood and 20 November for Beeston (to avoid market day).

4. Financial Implications

The comments from the Head of Finance Services were as follows:

The revenue budget for 2022/23 includes an allocation of £55,000 towards the provision of Christmas decorations. It is proposed that the contributions towards the festive trees and lights in towns across the Borough, including the respective lights switch-on events and associated costs, is funded from this allocation.

Any commitment beyond 2022/23 will be subject to the annual budget being agreed at a sufficient level.

5. Legal Implications

The comments from the Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal Services were as follows:

Whilst no direct legal implications arise at this stage, there will be a requirement for a legal agreement to be drawn up setting out the terms and conditions of the contribution including the requirement for indemnity insurance, risk assessments as well as other general provisions.

6. Human Resources Implications

The comments from the Human Resources Manager were as follows:

No HR comments.

7. Union Comments

The Union comments were as follows:

No Union comments

8. Data Protection Compliance Implications

Not applicable.

9. Equality Impact Assessment

Not applicable.

10. Background Papers

Nil