

Christmas Sub Committee

Date: 21st October 2019

Title: Update on Christmas Lighting Display

Contact Officer: Operations and Estates Officer John Hickman

Background

The purpose of this report is to update councillors as to the current position regarding this year's Christmas Lights display and staffing and equipment provision requirements for Christmas lights switch on.

Current Position Christmas Lights Display

Initially outlying areas installation of lights is expected to commence on or around 28th October, these will be installed away from the Market Square and War memorial. The lighting installations in the Market square and War memorial area will be carried out after Remembrance Sunday.

The contractors carrying out the installation itself are a new company to previous years this is due to issues that arose during previous year's installations with the previous contractors carrying out the install.

The lighting display will be as per the last two years.

The Operations and Estates Officer has already gained the necessary permissions to install the display from OCC this year and also gained permission from SSE for the unmetered power supply.

If Rotary are looking for WTC to provide the same levels of staff and services as previous years all of the works team will be working additional hours on switch on evening accumulating approx. 40hrs total toil time for all staff required.

Sponsorship

The Operations and Estates Officer gained quotes for a second tree and lighting to be positioned outside the Corn Exchange from the contractors for Finders Keepers to sponsor as requested by council.

These prices were passed to Finders Keepers to see if they would wish to sponsor this additional tree at full cost to Finders Keepers. Quote for one additional tree plus lighting

Supply of a 7m Tree =£840
Delivery, Install & Remove= £690

10 x 20m twinkling lights (2000 LEDs) = £850

Install & Remove of Lights = £575

Total £2955 ex VAT

This was too much for Finders Keepers to sponsor however they have asked that we keep them in mind when Christmas lighting contract is re tendered as they would hopefully like to be able to sponsor something in that display.

Current Position Switch on Night

The Operations and Estates Officer is waiting to hear from Rotary regarding their requirements from WTC this year. The Operations and Estates Officer has already updated prepared the signage required for the road closure etc. for this event, the Operations and Estates Officer presumes that Rotary has applied for the relevant Road closure. The cost of the new lettering for the signage will be invoiced to Rotary as per previous years.

Environmental impact

Having declared a Climate Change Emergency at its Council meeting on 26 June 2019 – with this in mind Councillors should have due regard to the environmental impact of any decisions they make with regard to its facilities and services it operates.

Currently WTC's Christmas Lighting display runs 24/7 from switch on 6pm 29th November to 5th January 2020 all lighting is already LED. Given council's current climate change emergency the Operations and Estates Officer has looked into cost associated to installing timers on all of the connections so the lights can go of overnight and during daylight hours. Contractors have informed the Operations and Estates Officer that we have 60 connections installation of a timer for each connection would cost £125 total cost £7,500 plus Vat, timers have a lifespan of approx. 5 years before requiring replacement.

Charges for unmetered electricity for the display last year were £1,287.40. There would still be an electricity charge to be paid for the lighting when on even without this it would take in excess of 5 years to recoup the cost of installing the timers.

It would cost the council substantially more over 5 years if timers were installed than if we continue to run the display 24/7.

Risk

In decision making Councillors should give consideration to any risks to the Council and any action it can take to limit or negate its liability.

Financial implications

The associated un-metered electrical charges dependant on electrical charges this year.

The associated costs to install timers to all connections should council wish to do so of £7,500

Staff time 40hrs approx. toil.

Recommendations

Members are invited to note the report and consider the following.

The additional costs should councillors be considering installing timers to all Christmas lighting connections.