

## **STRONGER COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE**

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**Date:** Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2020

**Title:** Christmas Lights Update

**Contact Officer:** Operations and Estates Officer – John Hickman

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### **Background**

The purpose of this report is to update Members on the progress of the Christmas Lights display for 2020.

### **Current Situation**

#### **Christmas Trees**

Both Christmas trees are ordered and may be installed prior to this meeting.

#### **Christmas Lights Installation**

The Christmas Lights display was due to be installed on 1<sup>st</sup> November however the lights had not been delivered into the UK by this date. The lights are due in the UK on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November and will hopefully have been installed by the time of this meeting.

#### **Switch On**

It had been intended to film the Mayor switching the lights on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November at 6pm for a virtual switch on at the normal switch on time. However the contractors have pointed out that as this is the normal day and time of switch on people may well turn up for the switch on as they are aware that is when it would normally be done.

The contractors have already been to some switch on that although it was a virtual switch on people have turned out as it was on the normal day and time. The contractors stated that if they arrive here for switch on there is a crowd they will leave, this is because they are travelling from Town to Town and do not want to be responsible for carrying the virus around a number of Towns as they install and switch on lights.

It is now intended to film the Mayor switching the lights on the day before Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November at 16:00 and release the virtual video at a later time. This way the lights will already be on when they would normally be being switched on and should avoid any form of crowd developing.

**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.

**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.

**Recommendations**

Members are invited to note the report: