



MEETING PAPER

Subject: Item 25.6 – Provision of Christmas Lights

Meeting: Full Council

Date: 26 May 2020

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~/NON CONFIDENTIAL

Background/Introduction

The Town Council has previously decided to extend its provision of Christmas lights to London Road South, subject to further information being provided by Blachere as to the cost (Full Council meeting 25 February 2020, item 269.2). This is in addition to the provision it currently has on the High Street and Bevan Street East.

Details

The Town Council is in its final year of a three year contract with Blachere Illumination to store, put up, switch on and take down its Christmas lights on the High Street and Bevan Street East. The Town Council owns these Christmas lights, and purchased them outright at year one of the contract.

In January 2020, a group of Councillors made a site visit to London Road South with a representative from Blachere, and it was recommended from this visit that the Council considers installing Christmas lights along London Road South either from Mill Road to Lorne Park Road (twelve lamp posts were identified for this purpose), or from the bascule bridge to Lorne Park Road (twenty four lamp posts were identified for this purpose).

At its meeting on 25 February 2020, the Town Council voted to extend its provision of Christmas lights to London Road South, between the bascule bridge and Lorne Park Road, subject to further advice being sought from Blachere regarding the cost.

Blachere has provided the following quotation for a three year contract, based on purchase of the lights in the first year (as per the existing contract):

Item Code	Description	Quantity	Price	Total	VAT
1- Lamppole wraps from the bridge to Lorne Park Road on London Road South					
TSLED02	Luminous Braid Pure White LED 230V, White Rubber	24	144.00000	3,456.00	691.20
TSLED02W	Luminous Braid Warm White LED 230V, White Rubber Cable	24	144.00000	3,456.00	691.20
	Installation			2,064.00	412.80
	Removal			1,320.00	264.00
			Subtotal	10,296.00	2,059.20

Blachere believe this is the most economical approach for the Town Council, and as such there is no saving for entering into a four year contract with this approach.

Blachere separately provided a quotation for hiring of the Christmas lights over a four year term, as follows:

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Item Code	Description	Quantity	Price	Total	VAT
1- Lamp pole wraps from the bridge to Lorne Park Road on London Road South					
TSLED02	Luminous Braid Pure White LED 230V, White Rubber	24	108.00000	2,592.00	518.40
TSLED02W	Luminous Braid Warm White LED 230V, White Rubber Cable	24	108.00000	2,592.00	518.40
	Installation			1,380.00	276.00
	Removal			883.20	176.64
	Subtotal			7,447.20	1,489.44

On 12 March, the Clerk and Committee Clerk completed a site visit to London Road South with a representative from Blachere, for them to look at the suitability of the lamp posts to support the braided wrap lights. Following this, we were told that we would not be able to install any lights on these lamp posts, as they do not have the appropriate electrical infrastructure to support this.

Based on the infrastructure that the lamp posts on the High Street and Bevan Street East have, it is understood that a waterproof power socket would need to be installed on top of each column that the Town Council would like to have Christmas lights on, with a wire running down the inside to a fused feed in the cut out.

The Committee Clerk has sought advice from Cozens Electrical, who work with Blachere on their Christmas lights projects. Cozens has advised that they would be able to assist, and the cost would be £350 (+VAT) per lamp post to install the necessary infrastructure.

Recommendations/Decision

The Town Council is being asked to consider the following:

- To consider whether it would like to proceed with installing the necessary electrical infrastructure to the lamp posts between the Bascule Bridge and Lorne Park Road, at a cost of £350 (+VAT) per lamp posts
- To consider whether to proceed with extending the provision of Christmas lights to London Road South, based on the information received from Blachere
- To consider whether to hire the Christmas lights from Blachere for London Road South, and if so to determine the length of the hire term
- To consider whether to purchase the Christmas lights for London Road South, and to consider the length of contract with Blachere to install, switch on, remove and store them
- To identify the exact area along London Road South, between the bascule bridge and Lorne Park Road, where the Council would like to install the Christmas lights