

**TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**CABINET**

**31 January 2017**

**Report of the Chief Executive**

**Part 1- Public**

**Executive Non Key Decisions**

**1 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY REVIEW – CHRISTMAS LIGHTING AND HANGING BASKET DISPLAYS**

**To seek endorsement of the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee regarding the above review.**

**1.1 The Review**

1.1.1 A review of the future funding of Christmas lighting displays and hanging basket provision in Tonbridge has recently been undertaken by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The following recommendations have been agreed by the Panel established to undertake the review and will be reported to the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 24 January 2017. If there are any changes agreed to the initial recommendations, a supplementary report will be made to the Cabinet.

**1.2 The Recommendations**

1.2.1 The review panel agreed the following recommendations:

- (a) No change is made to the current arrangements for Christmas lighting grant support in the parished areas but these should be reviewed again when necessary.
- (b) Alternative funding options for Tonbridge Christmas lights and hanging baskets should be explored for 2017/18. If these options are found not to be viable, as a last resort, then Full Council be recommended to review the listed functions within the Council's adopted Special Expenses Scheme with a view to including the functions within the scheme from 2018/19.
- (c) A range of potential funding options should be explored including seeking direct support from local traders and achieving additional income generation from new events, markets, advertising and street trading concessions. This funding should be additional to any existing income already being generated, or being planned for, in the town centre.
- (d) The target income figure for 2017/18 should be set at £17,000, 50% of the annual costs of both Christmas lights and hanging baskets.

(e) A review of the progress being achieved with the above initiatives should be undertaken in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2017/18.

**1.3 Legal Implications**

1.3.1 None

**1.4 Financial and Value for Money Considerations**

1.4.1 As addressed as part of the review.

**1.5 Risk Assessment**

1.5.1 n/a

**1.6 Equality Impact Assessment**

1.6.1 Decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

**1.7 Recommendations**

1.7.1 That, subject to any further amendments from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the above recommendations **BE ENDORSED**.

Background papers:

contact: Mark Raymond

Nil

Julie Beilby  
Chief Executive