

# REPORT TO EVENTS AND TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE SHOP CHRISTMAS TREES



**Report Reference** E-20-04  
**Meeting Date** 16<sup>th</sup> November 2020  
**Agenda Item** 9  
**Prepared by** Town Clerk

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## 1.0 BACKGROUND

Since 2015 the Town Council has coordinated the provision of shop Christmas trees. Participating shops have an iron bracket installed on the front of their shop into which a 4ft real tree is installed and LED lighting connected. This service is entirely self-financing with participating businesses covering the cost of the tree and installation, and new participants funding the cost of a new bracket/lights as required.

Due to the impact of COVID restrictions, orders for the service are substantially lower in 2020 with only 26 orders received (usually around 50-60).

Cllr Malloy has discussed with the Town Centre and Marketing Officer the idea of the council funding the trees for 2020 and distributing them evenly across the town centre.

The cost to the council per tree is £33.75, this includes the tree and installation, removal and disposal. In addition, the council will need to purchase a number of additional lights at £7.50 per tree. The cost of the council funding the service for 2020 would be as follows:

60 Trees	£2,298
50 Trees	£1,950
40 Trees	£1,433
30 Trees	£1,020

The suggestion is that if the council funds a number of trees they would be evenly distributed (where brackets are already provided) across the town centre. This would require the agreement of the hosting business to ensure the lights could be plugged in. If the committee agreed to fund some trees, the Town Centre and Marketing Officer would coordinate their installation and where a business which has ordered a tree already would not be included (in ensuring the distribution across the town centre) they would be offered the opportunity to participate as normal.

## 2.0 DECISION REQUIRED

The committee should consider the suggestion of funding the shop Christmas trees for 2020.