

# SALISBURY CITY COUNCIL

## Report

**Subject** : Christmas Events  
**Committee** : Full Council  
**Date** : 7 Sep 2020  
**Author** : Joanna Wood, Business Manager

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### 1. Report Summary:

1.1. This report considers the Salisbury Christmas Fayre 2020 and provides Full Council with an update on this event.

### 2. Background:

- 2.1. On 29 Jun 2020, Full Council resolved to (*minute 969.1-969.5 refers*):
- 2.1.1. Agree that SCC will not operate an ice rink in 2020/2021 as part of the Christmas Events programme.
  - 2.1.2. Agree that Christmas Tree Extravaganza and Santa's Grotto as shown in the report are to be taken forward by the Council
  - 2.1.3. Agree that Christmas Fayre is to be considered further by the Business Working Group (BWG) who will review the possibility of holding Christmas Fayre subject to two key considerations; government guidance with regard to social distancing and the availability of sufficient numbers of traders wishing to trade.
  - 2.1.4. Note the draft budget allocations and,
  - 2.1.5. Instruct officers to provide regular reports on progress to the Business Working Group and Full Council
- 2.2. The Coronavirus pandemic has significantly affected holding public events including markets in the UK since March 2020 and restrictions still apply.
- 2.3. Since 29 Jun 2020 officers have continued to review what type of Christmas Fayre could be safely and cost effectively executed.
- 2.4. The Christmas Tree Extravaganza and Santa's Grotto will go ahead and are being planned, although arrangements need to remain flexible to ensure they are covid secure. Full details will be shared with BWG when appropriate.
- 2.5. The planning and development of these events is taking place much later in the year than usual due to impact on covid. As the covid situation continues to change, it is likely that final decisions on these events will continue to be made much later in the year than usual, and a short notice in relation to the date of the event. The Council needs to retain flexibility to ensure decisions are made in a timely manner which allow us to make the most of any opportunities available.

### **3. Christmas Fayre 2020:**

- 3.1. As previously reported, it may not be possible, due to covid restrictions, nor viable due to decreased footfall, to run a Christmas Fayre in the same format as last year.
- 3.2. The Business Manager has developed a food, drink and entertainment option, building upon the applications previously received from stall applicants and a tender exercise. This is for a more modest in scope Christmas Fayre which will be smaller than in previous years, although it may be cover the same physical area to allow for social distancing. The focus will be on a visitor experience rather than retail. The Business Manager will present further details at Full Council as costs and options are still being researched, and the Council will be asked to agree whether they support the proposed event in principle.
- 3.3. Risks – there is a risk that local restrictions could be put in place if there were an increase in the number of cases of Covid 19 near Salisbury. With this in mind, SCC has sought to design an event that, if lockdown should occur, it can be closed the public without delay, predominately dismantled within 48 hours and should not incur costs beyond this point. SCC will work only with trader/companies who understand our risk adverse policy regarding covid 19 cancellations.
- 3.4. It is suggested that BWG should be given authority to agree the final details of the Christmas Fayre, in liaison with the Leader of the Council. As noted above, the Council needs to be able to make the final decision at short notice.

### **4. Christmas Lights Switch On Event:**

- 4.1. As previously noted, the Christmas lights will be erected in the city in the usual manner but the Light Switch On Event will be changed to meet any CV19 restrictions in place and be in line with the budget available.
- 4.2. Further details will be presented to BWG and it is suggested that BWG be given the authority for final agreement for this event.

### **5. Recommendations:**

It is recommended that the Council:

- 5.1. Note the report above.
- 5.2. Agree in principle that the Christmas Fayre should go ahead in accordance with the Business Manager's outline plan as shown at the meeting.
- 5.3. Agree that final decisions concerning the Christmas Fayre be delegated to the BWG in liaison with the Leader of the Council.
- 5.4. Agree that final decisions concerning the Christmas Light Switch On Event be delegated to the BWG in liaison with the Leader of the Council.

### **6. Wards Affected: All.**

### **7. Background Papers: Nil.**

## **8. Implications:**

8.1. **Financial:** As shown in the report

8.2. **Personnel:** To be determined

8.3. **Environmental Impact:** Nil in relation to this report

8.4. **Equalities Impact Statement:** Nil in relation to this report.