**Report to: EXECUTIVE CABINET** Date: 25 August 2021 **Executive Member:** Councillor Leanne Feeley – Executive Member Lifelong Learning, Equalities, Culture and Heritage **Reporting Officer:** Emma Varnam Assistant Director, Operations and Neighbourhoods Subject: **CIVIC EVENTS 2021 Report Summary:** The Council supports and programmes a vibrant and affordable calendar of events, generally free at the point of delivery. Key parts of this annual programme are Whit Friday Brass Band Contests, Armed Forces Day, Remembrance Services and Parades and the Borough's Christmas celebrations. Significant national or local commemoration events compliment the programme. This report sets out a vision for key events and activities in 2021. The proposed model takes into account the financial, organisational and Covid19 challenges facing the Council and the lessons learnt from staging/supporting civic events in the past. **Recommendations:** That Executive Cabinet be recommended to agree: The proposals relating to Town Christmas events 2021 are (i) agreed. The proposal relating to Tameside's Christmas Celebration (ii) event 2021 is agreed. The plans for Summer Theatre are noted (iii) The considerations for Remembrance Sunday and the (iv) associated Services and Parades are noted. **Corporate Plan:** Tameside's civic events and cultural events programme significantly adds to the borough's communities sense of pride, our place and shared heritage. It increases opportunities for people to participate, learn new skills and fulfil their potential. It can increase aspirations and hope through learning, moving with confidence from childhood and into adulthood. It can support levels of self-care through a social prescription of cultural participation. **Policy Implications:** It is essential that any proposals demonstrate value for money and make a clear contribution to Council priorities. **Financial Implications:** The report sets out details of the proposed calendar of events (Authorised by the across the borough during 2021. statutory Section 151 Section 6 of the report summarises the related cost of each event **Officer & Chief Finance** which will be financed via the existing Culture and Customer Officer) Services 2021/22 revenue budget within the Operations and Neighbourhoods directorate. In addition £0.010m has been awarded from GMCA's Cultural and Social Investment Fund via GMArts to support the Christmas lantern parade as referenced in section 3 of the report.

It is essential that the related expenditure of the proposed events is maintained within the stated budget allocations and that additional

	grant and sponsorship opportunities are continually explored to reduce the cost implications on the Council's revenue budget.
Legal Implications: (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)	This is a general overview report to assist Members by providing details of the proposed calendar of events for the council for 2021. Each event will be subject to its own decision making as appropriate.
	In considering the programme Members will have to be mindful of the ongoing impact of covid in terms of social distances, impact on the residents of Tameside and any financial requirements for the events.
Risk Management:	Outdoor events come with organisational and significant risk due to adverse weather conditions. This can require last minute decisions to cancel or alter events to ensure these are safe for audiences, performers and equipment alike.
	Risk to raising funds for community groups to deliver Christmas Switch On events – the report proposes that a basic Christmas Switch On package be available to all town Switch On events.
	All events and activities are subject to changes following guidelines and restrictions which may be in place due to Covid-19 to ensure the health and safety of audiences, performers and staff. These can mean last minute alterations and both the reputational and financial implications of this also needs to be considered.
Background Information:	The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting Marie Holland, Arts and Engagement Manager
	Telephone: 0161 3442 4144 (3006)
	🚱 e-mail: marie.holland@tameside.gov.uk

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Council supports and delivers a varied, innovative and generally free cultural events programme in Tameside. Integral to the Council's programme are a number of key civic events: Whit Friday Brass Band Contest, Armed Forces Day and the borough's Christmas celebrations. These are all commonly welcomed and supported by residents ensuring a sense of community, wellbeing and civic pride
- 1.2 Historically Christmas celebrations in Tameside have consisted of a number of small to medium sized 'Switch On' events (approx. eight) with one larger scale corporate event staged in Ashton. All events are traditionally staged outdoors, in the early evening, with music, often entertainment provided by local groups and finally a countdown to the Christmas lights.
- 1.3 A free Christmas package was continued for Christmas event organisers in 2019. This resulted in all events being supported with marketing, a free Christmas tree and Christmas tree lights were offered to each of the borough's nine towns. However Christmas 2020 saw a dramatic difference in delivery due to the Covid19 pandemic. Due to national and local restrictions on gatherings and the health and safety of residents this resulted in no physical town switch on events, although trees and their lights were installed in the nine towns and the additional civic building lights were lit.
- 1.4 Tameside's large corporate Christmas event has over the past years migrated across different towns of Tameside whilst the ongoing landscaping work outside Tameside One and the surrounding Marketplace has been taking place. The last full corporate Christmas event took place in 2019 in Stalybridge and was complimented by the Stalybridge Town Team's Christmas Market inside the Civic Hall. It comprised a large scale lantern parade, a digital arts piece projected onto Trinity Church and illuminated Armentieres Square with Christmas trees decorated by the town's schools. In line with the pandemic and its resulting restrictions in 2020 the traditional lantern parade was cancelled. Instead a programme of digital engagement with an accompanying 12 films were created featuring the creativity and talent of the borough's residents. The films alongside a finale film achieved close to individual 105,000 views and saw over 900 residents participate in the '12 Days of Christmas' whilst social distancing and restrictions on gatherings were maintained.
- 1.5 This report sets out the Event Panel's full programme of civic events with the alterations required due to the ongoing pandemic: Whit Friday brass Band Contests, Armed Forces Day, Remembrance Parades and Services as well as the proposals for the Christmas events programme for 2021.

## 2. 2021 CIVIC EVENTS PROGRAMME

- 2.1 The civic events programme spans a full 12 months of a calendar year and features the key events: Whit Friday Brass Band Contest, Armed Forces Day, Remembrance Services and Parades and the corporate lantern parade and town Christmas switch on events.
- 2.2 Each year these events have drawn huge crowds, raised the profile of the borough and enabled residents to come together to celebrate and mark all that is great about Tameside. However the pandemic hit the country causing the first national lockdown in March 2019 and whilst we are on a route towards restrictions being lifted it has had a significant impact on the planning and the delivery of some of those key events.
- 2.3 Below is a round-up of the alternatives to the traditional events which have been delivered this year to replace Whit Friday Brass Band Contest and Armed Forces Day. The event panel recognises as the borough moves towards the Autumn that it is hoped and expected that all restrictions will be lifted but it asks for it to be noted that the situation can change and may require a response closer to the event dates.

## **Tameside Whit Friday Brass Band Contest**

- 2.4 Tameside Whit Friday brass band contests take place on Whit Friday every year. This is considered the first brass band contest in the country charting its routes back to the 1870s in Stalybridge and Mossley. In 2019 fifty five bands from across the country and as far away as Scandinavia took part in the contest with an audience estimated in the region of 12,000-15,000. It is an essential part of the borough's heritage and a well-known national occasion. The contest brings communities together to celebrate a great local heritage and the opportunity to hear and see some of the greatest brass bands the country has to offer for free.
- 2.5 However, the contests were cancelled by the Brass Band Committee in 2020 due to the lockdown which the country was experiencing. Instead the internationally renowned brass band Fodens created an online brass band contest which resulted in 90 bands taking part and over 2400 band members playing brass music. The competition was streamed online with an audience of 30,000 viewers. The Events Panel agreed to support the Youth Prizes for the competition to encourage youth band participation within Tameside. The total prize fund was £600 with £300 for 1<sup>st</sup>, £200 for 2<sup>nd</sup>, £100 for 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- 2.6 The Whit Friday Brass Band Contest continues to remain a key feature in the borough's annual calendar due to its high profile and close heritage connection to Tameside. The Brass Band Committee made the decision early on in 2021 to cancel this year's contest due to take place on Friday 28 May 2021. The decision was made based on the fact that bands had not been able to practice in person for nearly a year and with restrictions still in place the committee saw no other option but to postpone the events to 2022.
- 2.7 However, because of the contest's key feature in the borough's calendar, its heritage and strong tradition for brass band music the Cultural Services team worked with Tameside brass bands in the borough to create a film allowing the bands to showcase some of their members' talent, celebrate the landscape of Tameside and to provide support to the band family. The film was launched on Whit Friday online with all the bands playing the same tune: JA Greenwood's *True and Trusty*. The film has to date been viewed close to 34,000 times.
- 2.8 Additionally Fodens ran a repeat of their online competition again this year with all entry fees to be shared between Tameside and Saddleworth brass band committees for support with next year's live event. The Events Panel agreed to support the contest this year with £600 prize money to support the future of our youth bands and the future of the borough's brass bands. The competition saw 119 bands participating from 13 different countries with over 2975 performers playing. The competition was viewed by an online audience of 31,000. Tameside has again supported the youth prizes with £600. This has seen Tameside MBC being nationally and internationally noted as a supporter of the competitions and its future, which will hopefully mean that more bands will compete here in 2022.
- 2.9 Through the support offered by the Arts and Engagement Team have been able to continue the support from the Council for the Tameside Whit Friday Brass Band Committee and the Tameside bands. It is expected that by keeping the brass band contest fresh in people's minds and through the youth band prizes the Tameside contests have been promoted locally, nationally and internationally. It is hoped that the 2022 will see the brass band contest take place again after a 2-year hiatus.

## Armed Forces Day

- 2.10 Armed Forces Day takes place on the last Saturday of June annually. It is a nationally recognised event. The day offers a chance for the Council and all its residents to show their support for the Armed Forces community; from serving troops to service families, veterans and cadets.
- 2.11 Tameside has celebrated Armed Forces Day annually since 2008. Traditionally this has involved the Council inviting veterans and their families to a Civic lunch with the Civic Mayor

in the Denton Jubilee Square. This has been followed by a family fun day in Victoria Park involving arts activities, music on the band stand, information stands, theatre, obstacle courses and traditional cream teas served in the adjacent Victoria Park Community Centre. The day on average brings 5000 people together in the park, to share in the celebrations to find out more about Tameside's Armed Forces Community and the important job they do and have done in the past.

- 2.12 In 2020 the event had to be cancelled due to Covid restrictions and the health and safety of veterans, audiences and staff. Instead the event moved online with 7 days of social media tweets and Facebook posts highlighting the impressive military heritage of the borough and individual soldiers' stories all of which were based on the collections held by the Local Archives and Studies Centre and the Museum Collections.
- 2.13 Unfortunately this year's Armed Forces Day has also been cancelled to protect veterans, audiences, performers and staff. It would not have been possible to hold a full and comprehensive event whilst taking all the required precautions to ensure a safe event which also met government guidelines and restrictions. Instead the event was marked digitally similarly to 2020. 26,000 people saw the Facebook posts and it reached 16000 engagements on Twitter. The posts all highlighted the impressive military history and the current Armed Services which are an important and vital part of Tameside past and present. It is envisaged that the event can run in full in 2022.

## **Remembrance Services and Parades**

- 2.14 Tameside has a rich, proud and full history of marking Remembrance Sunday through Services and Parades. Annually Tameside host approximately 22 Services and 11 parades across the borough during Remembrance weekend. In 2019 these had a combined audience of over 12,500 people. These Services and Parades are part of a long and important tradition in the borough for commemorating the fallen. The services bring communities together around a shared past and joint future.
- 2.15 In 2020 it was not possible to deliver and support all 22 Services and Parades due to Covid restrictions. Instead the Council opted to run 3 small scale wreath laying Services for invited guests only at Ashton, Denton and Stalybridge. At each of these events wreaths were laid on behalf of the RBL, Tameside, the NHS and the Police. Additionally all wreath laying members were asked to lay wreaths at a time suitable to them and in private. The Communications team, the RBL branches locally and elected members joined together in asking people to remember in private, on doorsteps and at times that were suitable to themselves.
- 2.16 The Events Panel together with Democratic Services are hopeful that this year's Services and Parades can go ahead as normal and will be planning these together with the RBL. The Events Panel proposes the continued partnership between the Operations and Neighbourhood Directorate and the Civic Mayor's Office to support the delivery of all Services and Parades taking place during the Remembrance weekend 13-14 November 2021. Additionally the Panel proposes that a corporate Act of Remembrance takes place on Wednesday 11 November outside Tameside One at 11am.

## 3 CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS 2021

3.1 The programme of Christmas activities from the corporate Tameside Christmas Parade to the town based switch ons are significant and key events annually. They are very well attended, have local support and are the most high profile events the Council either organises or supports. They bring communities together and ensure that all areas of the borough feel included and part of the festive season. Lessons learnt from previous years have resulted in the following proposals put forward for 2021, but the Events Panel asks for it to be noted with

the caveat that these plans can only take place should the government's roadmap continue to follow its course and no restrictions are imposed in the Autumn/Winter of 2021.

#### Tameside corporate Christmas event

- 3.2 Traditionally the corporate Tameside Christmas event has been staged in Ashton but due to the ongoing building works of Vision Tameside phase two the event has toured the borough. 2020 saw a deviation from this plan to a digital model to comply with Covid19 regulations. The resulting '12 Days of Christmas' saw over 900 residents showcase the best of creativity which the borough have to offer, it provided opportunities for residents to participate safely, be part of their communities and showcase their skills. It also gave some of the borough's struggling freelance artists and organisations paid work during the pandemic. The resulting 13 films were viewed close to 105,000 times. The films were very well received locally and were featured in the press also.
- 3.3 Due to the landscaping of Ashton Market ground it was proposed that the corporate event was moved to Hyde in 2020. This was due to the Health and Safety requirements set out in the national event management standards for moving people in and out of a space safely and securely. It is proposed that the offer for Hyde to host the annual corporate event is honoured in 2021. Taking the infrastructure and opportunities for staging a highly impactful event into account Hyde is still identified as a suitable location for 2021. The town has sufficient space to host such a large scale event and a safe and secure route for the lantern parade to take place in the Town Centre.
- 3.4 It is therefore proposed that Tameside's central event will lead the Christmas celebrations for 2021 and take place outdoors in Hyde Town Centre on Saturday 20 November 2021 between 6-8pm. The event will be managed and coordinated by the Operations and Neighbourhoods Directorate's Cultural Services and produced by Handmade Parade, a carnival arts organisation located just across the border in Hebden Bridge with support from community groups and local schools. The borough's own international carnival organisation Global Grooves will develop and animate the town square with support from the borough's local artists providing mentoring and support for up and coming artists living in Tameside.
- 3.5 Such a large scale event as this which is unique to Tameside will attract inward investment; since 2015 the Arts Council has awarded a total of £0.089m towards the creative elements of the parade. A bid was not submitted for 2020 as the event could not take place but a bid has been submitted for 2021 towards additional support for creating and developing the performance of the parade. £0.010m has already been secured from GMCA's Cultural and Social Investment Fund via GMArts, which the Cultural Services team is a member of. In 2021 it is also expected that the Council will commit £0.025m towards the central celebration to ensure the high quality of the parade can be maintained.
- 3.6 The Events Panel would like for it to be noted that whilst it is proposing that the corporate event is delivered in line with previous years' events there may be some alterations which need to be made as a result of the pandemic. The Events Panel continues to liaise closely with Cultural Services and via them with Public Health and Health & Safety. The Events Panel asks consideration be given to the proposal whilst also noting that possible changes may need to be made to avoid risk to audiences, performers and staff. Any decisions will need to be made in time to avoid reputational damage and financial losses should the event not be able to go ahead its normal guise.

## **Town Christmas Switch On events**

3.7 Town Christmas Switch On events are a unique and festive feature of the Christmas programme in Tameside. Each town has its own tradition for the event and the Event Panel recognises that it is not possible to apply the same conditions whilst maintaining the individual nature of these events.

- 3.8 Town Christmas events have historically been organised by community groups, Town Teams, Town Councils and charities with some support from the Council. The local organising teams are encouraged to fully fund their own events through sponsorship etc. Any funding shortfall is not automatically met by the Council but in-kind support is available through staffing, marketing, technical and event management support.
- 3.9 In 2019 eight towns took up the offer of a free Christmas tree, Christmas tree lights, installation and de-installation of the trees and lights. Whilst the pandemic stopped the traditional Christmas light switch on events in 2020 the Council still supported the local towns and supplied a cut tree, tree lights, installation and de-installation.
- 3.10 Options for Christmas trees in 2021 are being reviewed and quotes are being obtained from Christmas tree suppliers. The Panel proposes that the Council again offers the towns a free tree, Christmas tree lights, installation and de-installation. There are two exceptions to this plan. Firstly Droylsden will retain the metal tree purchased by the Town Team in commemoration of the previous Leader Councillor Kieran Quinn resulting in no new purchase of a cut tree, the remaining offer of installation, deinstallation and lights would still be available. Secondly a living tree has been planted by the Hub at Hattersley so a new purchased cut tree will not be required but the remaining offer will still be made available. Based on the outcome of the review, the panel expects that the cost of the proposed offer to the nine towns will be in the in line with the same costs as 2020.
- 3.11 The Events Panel therefore proposes that if the above offer is approved £0.015m is allocated to cover the cost associated with the trees, assuming all towns take up the offer. The Events Panel also proposes that the following Town Christmas Switch On dates are agreed in order to ensure that the Council is able to provide sufficient engineer cover for the event whilst allowing for the best spread of dates to ensure as many people as possible have the opportunity to attend as many of the switch on events as they choose.
  - Hyde (Tameside corporate Christmas event) 20 November 2021
  - Audenshaw 26 November 2021
  - Ashton 26 November 2021
  - Dukinfield 26 November 2021
  - Denton 27 November 2021
  - Stalybridge 26 November 2021
  - Droylsden 27 November 2021
  - Mossley 27 November 2021
  - Hattersley 4 December 2021
- 3.12 In 2019 £0.070m was allocated for the commission of a new civic lighting scheme. These were all implemented successfully with the exception of the installation on Ashton Town Hall. It was considered best not to illuminate this building until the hoardings around the building were removed. Whilst the hoardings are still in place it is proposed to wait with lighting this building for Christmas.

## 4 NATIONALLY SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

4.1 Occasionally there will be annual events of national or local significance which the Events Panel proposes that the Council marks corporately and or through community engagement activity. The activities below represent the events which the Events Panel proposes the Council marks in 2021.

## Pride

4.2 Pride events and parades take place across the country and internationally, they are seen as celebratory activities and events which champion LGBTQ+ communities, equality and diversity. Tameside Pride campaigns for LBGTQIA+; celebrates LBGTQIA+ life and creates

opportunities that engage LBGTQIA+ people so that they can thrive. There is a desire by community groups in Tameside to celebrate the diverse LBGTQIA+ communities at a local level with a digital Tameside Pride event on the 17 July 2021. The Events Panel will ensure that the council offers support to develop this community led event. Tameside Council stands in solidarity and pride with our LGBTQIA+ community and believes in equality for all.

## 5 ADDITIONAL CULTURAL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

5.1 The Events Panel recognises that the Operations and Neighbourhood Directorate's Cultural Services delivers a wide, diverse and engaging programme of cultural activities across the borough throughout the year in Museums, Local Studies, Libraries, community venues, outdoors in our parks and town centres and often in partnership with other external and internal partners. Whilst it is not possible to include all activity the Panel believes that the following events and activities are reflective of some of the free high quality opportunities which are available to Tameside residents.

## Summer Theatre

5.2 Since 2011 Summer theatre has been a key feature of the Council's free summer offer for families in Tameside. In 2019 ten productions were performed in Tameside's parks and green spaces to an audience of over 2,900 in total. This is a free offer to all families and often attracts over 500 people in a day to see the nationally recognised theatre companies perform live in our parks. In 2021 to comply with the current social distancing rules the team will be running a booking system to ensure audiences can safely watch the performances. There will be 10 performances taking across Tameside during the August summer holiday:

28 July: Little Red Riding Hood in Victoria Park Denton (11.30am and 2.30pm)

- 4 August: The Lost Colour in Hyde Park (11.30am and 2.30pm)
- 11 August: The Town Band of Bremmen at Hollingworth Primary school (11.30am and 2.30pm)
- 18 August: Seed in Dukinfield Park (11.30am and 2.30pm)
- 25 August: The Hare and the Moon at Ryecroft Hall (11.30am and 2.30pm)

## Summer Reading Challenge

5.3 The Summer Reading Challenge is a national initiative encouraging young people to read and be members of libraries. Tameside's Library Service joins in annually with the theme set nationally. In 2020 the Summer Reading Challenge ran both online and in person due to the pandemic. In Tameside 415 young people signed up to the challenge in libraries with an extra 415 young people registering online. The theme was *Silly Squad*, and as well as encouraging children to read up to 6 books, staff in libraries put on 12 online Facebook activities over the summer holidays which achieved 3300 views. In 2021 the Summer Reading Challenge theme is *Wild World Heroes* – find out how you can make a difference to the environment too.

## Tameside Heritage Month

5.4 Nationally Heritage Open Days take place in September over two weekends. These weekends encourage buildings and natural sites not traditionally open to the public to be made accessible for tours and general visitors. The theme for 2021 is Edible Britain. Tameside Local Studies staff are already working with groups and individuals interested in hosting an event this year. Alongside the Heritage Open Day events other activities are being programmed to highlight and celebrate the borough's heritage. In 2021 this will include walks, talks and tours taking place across the borough.

# 6 BUDGET

### Christmas

- 6.1 The community Christmas Switch On events support proposal relies on key members of staff in Operations and Neighbourhoods being able to support the organisers with their events and plans. This will be funded through their allocated revenue funding as part of their core activities eg street cleansing. Cultural and Customer Services have set aside £0.015m to cover the cost of the free Christmas package comprising a tree, lights and the associated costs of install and removal from their core revenue budget.
- 6.2 Existing revenue budget of £0.025m from Arts and Engagement is allocated to support the corporate Christmas event. This amount was also be referenced as match funding in the Arts Council bid to support the Tameside Lantern Parade in Hyde in 2021 as well as the confirmed £0.010m from GMArts to support the event.
- 6.3 Other than the details above no budget provision is available to deliver additional activity at the local 'switch on' events. It is envisaged that each event will be funded, insured and event managed by local organising groups/committees.

#### Armed Forces Day

6.4 Tameside Armed Forces day will be funded through the existing revenue budget from Arts and Engagement to the total of £500 to increase the social media presence.

#### Whit Friday

6.5 A total of £600 for Tameside Council's Whit Friday Brass Band Contest prizes was allocated from the Arts and Engagement revenue funding. The Whit Friday Brass Band film was externally funded through Cultural Services' GMArts funding supporting local arts and artists.

#### 6.6 **Pride**

Any support offered for Tameside Pride will be covered within core revenue budgets.

#### 7 RISK

- 7.1 Outdoor Events can and do post significant organisational and technical challenges due to their location, occasionally unkind weather conditions and large crowd numbers often involving a high level of children. If an event is not properly organised and managed due in part to a lack of experience and expertise then there is a risk to public safety and ultimately the reputation of the Council should an accident or incident occur.
- 7.2 In order to protect the public and for the safe management of an event, only experienced event officers will manage the events and support community organisers with advice. In addition to this the Council operates an Event Notification process whereby organisers Risk Assessments and Event Management plans are carefully considered by appropriate Council staff.
- 7.3 There is a risk that a number of Town Christmas organising groups will not be able to raise the required funding to stage their choice of an event. In order to mitigate the risk the Council will work with the event organisers to support them to deliver their events within their budgets.
- 7.4 This year there is an additional risk to last minute alterations due to the ongoing pandemic. Whilst the road map would indicate that there will be no restrictions in place it is worth noting that this could change should the infection rates alter sufficiently to include restrictions being imposed again. 2020 saw Cultural Services adapt swiftly and continually to the changing restrictions and the same level of flexibility has been adopted for 2021 also.

## 8 CONCLUSION

- 8.1 The Council's annual key civic events programme is widely welcomed and enjoyed by residents of Tameside. With an increased focus on the Council's finances and the desire to continue to deliver events which are vibrant, safe and affordable the Events Panel was created to oversee key civic events from Whit Friday Brass Band Contest, Armed Forces Day and Remembrance Services to the Borough's flagship Christmas celebration and its Town Switch On events. The Panel proposes that the civic event dates put forward in the report are noted and adopted.
- 8.2 The Events Panel fully recognises that these are by no means the sole cultural activities in the Borough and whilst it will not spearhead all activities it will support where required and where gaps are identified. Equally as different years bring different commemorations and celebrations the Panel will lead and advise on the Council's response to these.
- 8.3 The Panel wishes for the proposed plans to deliver Remembrance Services and Parades in line with 2019 to be adopted whilst it is noted that should the pandemic cause last minute alterations these may need to be considered.
- 8.4 Significantly this report also includes the proposed plans for the corporate 2021 Christmas celebrations. Whilst this has traditionally taken place in Ashton, the Panel is proposing that the event continues to tour in 2021 and takes place in Hyde to honour the commitment made to Hyde in 2020 due to the ongoing landscaping of Ashton Market Square.
- 8.5 With regard to the borough's Town Christmas Switch On, the Events Panel is recommending that the named towns on their allocated dates all receive a free Christmas tree, tree lights and the install and removal of these. These recommendations will ensure that the Town Christmas Switch On Events continue to be safe and affordable whilst also highlighting the Council's commitment to supporting Community events where possible.

## 9 **RECOMMENDATIONS**

9.1 As set out at the front of the report.