

**Report to:** EXECUTIVE CABINET

**Date:** 22 June 2022

**Executive Member:** Councillor Vimal Choksi – Executive Member Town Centres, & Communities

**Reporting Officer:** Emma Varnam – Assistant Director, Operations and Neighbourhoods

**Subject:** CIVIC EVENTS REPORT 2022

**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. This report sets out a vision for key events and activities in 2022. The proposed model takes into account the financial, organisational challenges facing the Council and the lessons learnt from staging/supporting civic events in the past.

**Recommendations:** That Executive Cabinet is recommended to agree that:

- (i) The plans for Whit Friday are noted.
- (ii) The plans for Armed Forces Day are noted and agreed.
- (iii) The plans for Remembrance Sunday and the associated Services and Parades are noted and the proposal for additional recurrent revenue budget of £14,000 (sections 2.17 and 6.5 refers) is considered. It is recommended that a revenue budget of £14,000 is approved for the 2022/23 financial year only (via the Council's revenue contingency budget) pending a review of the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan. This review will determine availability of recurrent funding from 2023/24 for these events. This will then be subject to separate approval via the Council's 2023/24 budget report that will be presented to Members at the February 2023 Council meeting.
- (iv) The proposal relating to Tameside's corporate Winter Lantern Parade 2022 is agreed.
- (v) The dates for the Town Christmas events 2022 are agreed.
- (vi) The support package for the Town Christmas events is agreed.
- (vii) The request for additional recurrent revenue budget of £15,000 (sections 3.11 and 6.1 refer) to support the core Christmas package is considered. It is recommended that a revenue budget of £15,000 is approved for the 2022/23 financial year only (via the Council's revenue contingency budget) pending a review of the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan. This review will determine availability of recurrent funding from 2023/24 for these events. This will then be subject to separate approval via the Council's 2023/24 budget report that will be presented to Members at the February 2023 Council meeting.

- (viii) The additional plans and capital budget of £320,000 (sections 3.14 and 6.3 refer) for an enhanced festive lighting scheme are considered. The Council's capital programme will be reviewed and updated during 2022/23 for additional priority schemes that will be subject to available funding and separate Member approval. A capital budget of £320,000 is to be proposed for enhanced festive lighting as a priority scheme to be considered in the 2022/23 capital programme review.
- (ix) The additional highlighted events programme is 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.

Where possible the events and associated plans will take the Council's Environmental strategy into account through recycling, restricted use of plastic and impact on the environment is considered for each event.

**Financial Implications:  
(Authorised by the statutory  
Section 151 Officer & Chief  
Finance Officer)**

The majority of events proposed in this report will be funded by existing Arts & Engagement revenue budget within the Place Directorate.

Additional revenue budget of £29,000 will be allocated to the Place Directorate for the 2022/23 financial year to support the related expenditure for the Remembrance and Christmas events as summarised in table 1 section 6.10. The additional funding will be allocated via the Council's revenue contingency budget. There will be a review of the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan during 2022/23. This review will determine availability of recurrent funding from 2023/24 for these events. This will then be subject to separate approval via the Council's 2023/24 budget report that will be presented to Members at the February 2023 Council meeting.

In addition there is a capital funding request of £320,000 (sections 3.14 and 6.3 refer) for the replacement of street lighting columns in town centres. This is to ensure compatibility with new festive lighting displays. This request includes the replacement of the lamp columns, festive lighting purchase and installation. It should be noted that the Council's capital programme will be reviewed and updated during 2022/23 for additional priority schemes that will be subject to available funding and separate Member approval. A capital budget of £320,000 is to be proposed for enhanced festive lighting as a priority scheme to be considered in the 2022/23 capital programme review.

It is advised that external funding sources such as sponsorship and / or grant funding should continue to be explored to finance the related costs of events and street lighting as set out in the report to reduce the liability on Council resources.

It is also essential that advice is sought from STAR where appropriate to ensure compliance with procurement regulations for all related expenditure and that value for money is clearly evidenced.

**Legal Implications :**  
**(Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)**

This report is seeking Members' approval of the programme of civic events for 2022 including a request for additional funding which is addressed in the financial implications

The project officers should ensure that they follow the advice from STaR the procurement unit to ensure that compliant procurement exercises are undertaken in relation to the purchase of any goods and services related to the civic events.

It is also likely that a number of events will require road closures and/or temporary changes to the traffic regulations which will require further due diligence and decision making before the Traffic Regulation Orders can be made.

**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.

Without additional budgets requested for Town Christmas events and Remembrance Services and Parades it is likely that these will pose additional risks to audience safety and meeting our statutory duties regarding highways. In the worst case scenario some of these may need to be cancelled or significantly altered to reduce the risk especially in relation to road safety, this could impact negatively on the Council's reputation.

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.

**Access to Information:**

There are no exemptions for access

**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](mailto: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, Winter Lantern Parade 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 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 The traditional free Christmas package was continued for Christmas event organisers in 2021. This resulted in all nine events being supported with the required elements from the package for their event such as: marketing, a free Christmas tree and Christmas tree lights. This year also included an additional and significant focus on health and safety due to the pandemic and lessons learnt from across the world in terms of audience safety when parading on roads.
- 1.5 Tameside's large corporate Winter Lantern Parade 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 Parade took place in 2021 in Hyde with some additional considerations taken into account regarding social distancing and the safety of the parade route. It comprised a medium scale lantern parade, digital illuminations of the town hall, community art installations and the trees outside Hyde Town hall being decorated by the town's schools.
- 1.6 This report sets out the Event Panel's full programme of civic events: Whit Friday brass Band Contests, Armed Forces Day, Remembrance Parades and Services, the Winter Lantern Parade as well as the proposals for the Christmas events programme for 2022.

## **2. 2022 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, followed by different levels of restrictions which have now been lifted. But it is worth noting the implications of the pandemic in terms of community support for the key events such as Remembrance and also the impact felt across event infrastructure companies in terms of staff drain.

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

- 2.3 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.

- 2.4 However, the contests were cancelled by the Brass Band Committee in 2020 and 2021 due to the lockdown and ongoing restrictions 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 in 2020 and a similar online contest in 2021 resulting in 134 bands taking part and 35,000 people watching the contest online. The Events Panel agreed to support the Youth Prizes for both competitions 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> places. Fodens also decided to split the proceeds for the 2021 contest between Saddleworth and Tameside's Whit Friday brass band committees for supporting the events in 2022. These competitions have 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.
- 2.5 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 2021 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.
- 2.6 The Tameside Brass Band Contest will take place on 10 June 2022. The Contest has usually been made up from 11 individual competitions. Each contest is run by the individual venue; they all have their own prizes covering the different sections with awards and is judged by nationally recognised judges. After the contest has taken place all results are gathered together and the overall winners and runners up in each section are announced. These overall awards are financed by the Council (see appendix 1 for venues and the Council's Tameside Prize fund).
- 2.7 The contest is coordinated by the Brass Band Committee but due to its high profile it has remained a key feature in the borough's annual calendar and has consistently been supported by the Council through eleven prizes and event support from the Council's Arts and Engagement Team. This allows for the contest to continue to attract the most bands in addition to high calibre bands from across the country and internationally. It also ensures that the contest can continue to compete with the Saddleworth Brass Band contests taking place on the same date.
- 2.8 However, due to the hiatus and complications related to the pandemic there will only be 9 contests in 2022. The committee is working closely with the Council to ensure that these will take place this year and are also working together to support new venues coming on-board for the 2023 contest.
- 2.9 The Event Panel proposes that the Council continues to support this high profile locally and nationally significant event through the annual prize funds of £7,350 (paid since 1989) and through the support provided by the Arts and Engagement Team and wider Operations and Neighbourhoods Directorate.

### **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. A bid is submitted to the MOD annually for this to support with the logistics of the event, this year the MOD have awarded TMBC up to £6,000 for this purpose.
- 2.12 In 2020 and 2021 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 Studies and Archive Centre and the Museum Collections. The online event in 2021 saw 26,000 people engage with the Facebook posts and it achieved over 16,000 engagements on Twitter.
- 2.13 The Event Panel proposes that Armed Forces Day takes place live in Victoria Park, Denton on Saturday 25 June 2022 in line with national celebrations. It also suggests that the event will follow the same format as in previous years; with the borough's veterans invited to a lunch served within a marquee in Denton Jubilee Square followed by a family fun day of activities, music and Armed Services information stalls.

#### **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 2021 these had a combined audience of over 10,000 people despite the need for social distancing and other related mitigating procedures to limit Covid transmission. 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 However after the gap in 2020 due to the pandemic and its ongoing impact it was clear that whilst there was willing from the community to deliver and host Remembrance Services and Parades there was not necessarily the capacity and expertise to carry on the traditions. This resulted in a significant pressure on Council staff to ensure the events' delivery and safety especially in relation to road closures. This meant that additional budget was urgently needed to be made available to cover professionally managed road closures where parades took place as well as additional support with risk assessments and event support. However, on the day it was still identified that more support was needed in terms of staff and additional professionally manned road closures.
- 2.16 The Events Panel together with Democratic Services propose that this year's Services and Parades go ahead in their usual format with community and RBL support. 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 12-13 November 2022. Additionally the Panel proposes that a corporate Act of Remembrance takes place on Friday 11 November 2022 outside Dukinfield Town Hall at 11am.
- 2.17 If it is agreed that these Services and Parades continue to take place, the Events panel requests that additional budget is identified to support the events and importantly budget is identified to support additional professionally managed road closures to ensure the safety of the parades and their participants. This recommendation is based on the panel's knowledge of incidents and in some cases deliberate attacks involving vehicles being driven at parades resulting in casualties (the latest on the 20 March 2022 in Strepv-Bracquegnies, Belgium).

The panel is aware that the Authority has a statutory duty in relation to its highways and the associated safety of all its users and therefore it is necessary to put measures in place to facilitate the parades safely and in line with their traditional routes where possible. The proposed budget to make the events happen safely and with sufficient staff support is £14,000, this would cover road-closures and the additional staff resource required to deliver the events safely and professionally.

### **3. CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS 2022**

3.1 The programme of Christmas activities from the corporate Tameside Winter Lantern 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 being put forward for 2022.

#### **Tameside Winter Lantern Parade**

3.2 Traditionally the corporate Tameside Lantern Parade has been staged in Ashton but due to the ongoing building works of Vision Tameside phase two the event has toured the borough. In 2021 Hyde hosted the annual event which was postponed from 2020 due to the then restrictions on gatherings. The event was well attended and well received. The event did highlight an increased focus on the safety of the parade route and the risks associated with high profile events and audience safety. Not least the following day's event (21 November 2021) which saw a car drive at the Waukesha Christmas parade killing and injuring many parade goers.

3.3 Due to the landscaping of Ashton Market ground it was proposed that the corporate event was moved to Denton in 2018, Stalybridge in 2019 and Hyde in 2020 (realised in 2021). 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. Taking the infrastructure and opportunities for staging a highly impactful event into account the panel proposes that the event returns to Ashton and subsequently rotates between Denton, Stalybridge, Hyde and Ashton. These towns have sufficient space to host such a large scale event and safe and secure routes for the lantern parade to take place in the Town Centre have now been tested in all of the towns.

3.4 It is therefore proposed that Tameside's central event will lead the Christmas celebrations for 2022 and take place outdoors in Ashton Town Centre on Saturday 19 November 2022 between 5-7pm. The event will be managed and coordinated by the Operations and Neighbourhoods Directorate's Cultural Services and produced by a professional Carnival organisation with support from community groups and local schools.

3.5 Such a large scale event as this which is unique to Tameside has attracted inward investment; since 2015 the Arts Council has awarded a total of £121,000 towards the creative elements of the parade. £10,000 has already been secured from GMCA's Cultural and Social Investment Fund via GMArts which the Cultural Services team is a member of. In 2022 it is also expected that the Council will commit £25,000 towards the central celebration to ensure the high quality of the parade can be maintained.

#### **Town Christmas Switch On events**

3.6 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.

- 3.7 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.
- 3.8 In 2021 all nine towns took up either the full or part of the offer including a free Christmas tree, Christmas tree lights, installation and de-installation of the trees and lights.
- 3.9 Options for Christmas trees in 2022 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 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. Secondly Stalybridge opted for an LED tree provided by the Town Team in 2021 and the panel recommends that the Stalybridge Christmas organisers will be able to choose between a cut tree provided by the Council or the LED tree provided by the Town Team but installation and de-installation will still be available to Stalybridge organisers in accordance with the usual package. The panel expects that the cost of this proposed offer to the nine towns will be in line with the same costs as 2021.
- 3.10 The Events Panel therefore proposes that if the above offer is approved £15,000 is allocated from revenue budget to cover the cost associated with the trees, assuming all towns take up the offer. The 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 events 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.
- Ashton (Tameside corporate Christmas event) 19 November 2022
  - Audenshaw 25 November 2022
  - Stalybridge 25 November 2022
  - Dukinfield 25 November 2022
  - Denton 26 November 2022
  - Mossley 26 November 2022
  - Hyde 26 November 2022
  - Droylsden 3 December 2022
  - Hattersley 3 December 2022
- 3.11 Due to the pandemic and the increased focus on health and safety however the panel recommends that the Council identifies an additional £15,000 to support the organisers with infrastructure such as event support, barriers, road closures and medical support etc. to ensure these events are delivered safely on Council land. To make the best use of this money the panel proposes that event surgeries are arranged from July 2022 onwards. It also proposes that all event plans and additionalities such as fairground rides, stages and entertainment are agreed with the Chair of the Events Panel and Cultural Services team by no later than 8 September 2022 for the town organisers to benefit from the additional support.
- 3.12 In 2019 £70,000 was allocated for the commission of a new civic lighting scheme. These lights 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 continue to wait with lighting this building for Christmas.
- 3.13 However the Event Panel finds that Tameside's town centres are increasingly being commented upon in derogatory language and that the opinion often is that the Council doesn't support the town centres and that these are not maintained to the standard expected by some residents. Whilst the Event Panel accepts the financial hardships Councils are under they

would like to recommend that the Council extends this lighting scheme by installing light features called plaques on approximately 20-30 of each of the towns' lamp columns.

- 3.14 Unfortunately the lamp columns in the town centres are unsuitable for these plaques due to their age and the specifications of the low energy LED plaques required. The cost of replacing the lamp columns, purchasing the lights and their installation is £320,000. The Panel therefore asks for this cost to be considered to provide positive feedback on the borough's town centres and to increase the levels of civic pride in the borough's town centres.

#### **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 2022.

##### **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 Tameside Pride event in the summer of 2022. 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 LBGTQIA+ 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 2021 nine productions were performed and fully booked in Tameside's parks and green spaces. 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 Covid restrictions the performances were bookable events to maintain social distancing and one performance was cancelled due to lightning. In 2022 there will be 10 performances taking place across Tameside's parks during the August summer holiday, these locations will be:

- Victoria Park, Denton
- Hyde Park
- Hollingworth Primary school
- Cheetham's Park, Stalybridge
- Ryecroft Hall, Audenshaw

##### **Summer Reading Challenge**

- 5.3 The Summer Reading Challenge is a national initiative presented by The Reading Agency and funded by Arts Council England, which encourages children, aged 4 to 11 to set themselves a reading challenge to help prevent the summer reading 'dip'. Tameside Library Service takes part in the initiative each year. In 2021 because of the pandemic, the Summer Reading Challenge ran both online and in person. In Tameside 1405 young people signed up to the challenge in libraries with an additional 161 young people registering online. The theme was *Wild World Heroes*, and as well as encouraging children to read up to 6 books, staff in libraries put on 12 virtual activities over the summer holidays, including author events and craft sessions with 392 people logging on, plus an animal extravaganza in the library which attracted more than 200 people. In 2022 the Summer Reading Challenge will have a science theme.

#### **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 2022 is *Astounding Inventions*. Tameside Local Studies staff will be 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 2022 this will include walks, talks and tours across the borough but with a particular focus on Stalybridge as part of the Stalybridge Town of Culture programme.

## **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 allocated revenue funding as part of core activities eg street cleansing. Cultural and Customer Services have set aside £15,000 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. However the panel is proposing that an additional £15,000 is identified corporately to support the event organisers with event logistics and additional event support.
- 6.2 Existing revenue budget of £25,000 from Arts and Engagement is allocated to support the corporate Christmas event. This amount will also be referenced as match funding in the Arts Council bid to support the Tameside Lantern Parade in Ashton in 2022 as well as the confirmed £10,000 from GMArts to support the event.
- 6.3 The Event panel has proposed a new lighting scheme is commissioned for the 9 towns of Tameside which, if agreed would necessitate the replacement of lamp columns. The total cost for this is an additional £320,000.
- 6.4 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.

### **Remembrance Parades and Services**

- 6.5 The event panel has recognised the toll it has taken on Remembrance Event organisers and the increased focus on Counter Terrorism which has resulted in less safe events and gaps in the organisation of these. To rectify this the panel is proposing that an additional sum of £14,000 is found to increase event support capacity and also to put professional road closures in place where required.

### **Armed Forces Day**

6.6 Tameside Armed Forces day will be funded through the existing revenue budget from Arts and Engagement to the total of £7000.

**Whit Friday**

6.7 The total prize fund of £7,350 for Tameside Council's Whit Friday Brass Band Contest remains allocated from the Arts and Engagement revenue funding.

**Pride**

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

**Additional Budget information in table format**

6.9 Due the complex nature of the budget requirements for the Civic events programme the table below sets out the additional budget request for consideration.

**Table 1**

<b>Budget request</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Revenue</b>	
Remembrance support and additional road closure management	14,000
Town Christmas infrastructure and logistical support	15,000
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>29,000</b>
<b>Capital</b>	
Festive lamp plaque scheme and lamp column replacement	320,000
<b>Total Capital</b>	<b>320,000</b>

**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 There is an increased focus and awareness of the need for public Tameside events to run safely. For this to happen the Council needs to put extra measures in place to safeguard the public whilst they are parading or taking part in Christmas events. In order for these events to be delivered safely additional funding is required to support both the community organised Remembrance Services and Parades and the borough's Town Christmas switch on events or there is a real risk that these events may be cancelled due to safety concerns.

**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 Winter Lantern Parade and its Town Christmas 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 proposes the plans to deliver Remembrance Services and Parades in line with 2021 are adopted and consideration is given to the request for additional funds to ensure these can run safely.
- 8.4 Significantly this report also includes the proposed plans for the corporate 2022 Winter Lantern Parade. Whilst this has traditionally taken place in Ashton, the Panel is proposing that the event will now rotate between Ashton, Denton, Stalybridge and Hyde. With the event taking place in Ashton in 2022.
- 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. The panel also recommends additional budget is made available to sufficiently support organisers with event support and logistics. Additionally the panel has proposed a new lighting scheme is commissioned to positively enhance residents' views of town centres and thereby bring additional footfall to town centres. 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 and town centres where possible.

## **9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 9.1 As set out at the front of the report.