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| Report to: | EXECUTIVE CABINET |
| Date: | 26 April 2023 |
| Executive Member: | Councillor Vimal Choksi, Executive Member Towns & Communities. |
| Reporting Officer: | Emma Varnam, Assistant Director, Operations & Neighbourhoods. |
| Subject: | CIVIC EVENTS REPORT 2023 |
| Report Summary: | <p>The Council support and programmes a vibrant and affordable calendar of events, generally free at the point of delivery. Key parts of this annual calendar 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 calendar which in 2023 includes plans to mark and celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III. This report sets out a vision for these key events and activities in 2023. 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.</p> |
| Recommendations: | <p>That Executive Cabinet be recommended to agree:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) The plans for Whit Friday are noted. (ii) The plans for Armed Forces Day are noted. (iii) The plans and revenue budget (section 2.16 refers) for Remembrance Sunday and the associated Services and Parades are noted. (iv) The proposal relating to Tameside's corporate festive Lantern Parade 2023 is agreed. (v) It is agreed that Ashton as the economic centre reverts to being the annual host of the corporate lantern parade. (vi) The dates for the Town Christmas events 2023 are agreed. (vii) The support package for the Town Christmas events is agreed. (viii) The revenue budget of £18,000 (section 3.12 refers) to support the core Christmas package is noted. (ix) The proposals for marking and celebrating the Coronation of King Charles III are noted. (x) The additional highlighted events programme is noted. |
| Corporate Plan: | <p>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.</p> |
| Policy Implications: | <p>It is essential that any proposals demonstrate value for money and make a clear contribution to Council priorities.</p> <p>Where possible the events and associated plans will take the Council's Environmental strategy into account through recycling,</p> |

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)**

This report sets out the proposed calendar of events across Tameside during 2023. Section 6 outlines the anticipated costs, all of which are to be funded from the existing Cultural and Customer Services revenue budget within Operations and Neighbourhoods. The core expenditure budget, excluding staffing, for Arts and Events in 2023/24 is £108,420, subject to approval of the 2023/24 Budget Report.

There are a number of bids for external funding ongoing and, if successful, the service should ensure that appropriate governance is sought to accept any grant awards and that expenditure is carried out within and grant conditions that might be attached.

It is essential that the expenditure remains within the available budget and that the service continue to explore further grant and sponsorship opportunities to reduce the cost implications for the Council's revenue budget.

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

This report provides a helpful overview of the proposed civic events. The events themselves will be subject to the necessary risk assessments and planning which should identify other requirements such as insurance cover and temporary road closures which will be supported by legal services.

Risk Management:

Outdoor events come with organisation 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, staff, 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 through unforeseen circumstances and as such this 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, Cultural and Customer Services



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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Council supports and delivers a varied, innovative and generally free cultural events and activities programme in Tameside. Integral to the Council's programme are a number of key civic events: Whit Friday Brass Band Contests, Armed Forces Day, the annual 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 (approximately eight) with one large scale corporate event staged alternatively in Ashton, Denton, Stalybridge and Hyde. 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 The traditional free Christmas package was continued for Christmas event organisers in 2022. This resulted in all nine events being supported with the required elements from the package for their events such as: a free Christmas tree and Christmas tree lights and marketing. 2022 also saw an increased focus on the health and safety of the events with lessons learnt from across the world in terms of audience safety and fairground equipment. This meant that additional support was available for barriers, medics, road closures and event management support.
- 1.4 Tameside's large corporate Winter Lantern Parade has been set into a pattern of rotating between Ashton, Denton, Stalybridge and Hyde as these town centres have been deemed sufficiently large to accommodate the parade. The parade in 2022 took place in Ashton and was renamed the Tameside Christmas celebration. It comprised a large scale lantern parade, illuminations of the key market square buildings, a festive window trail, the civic large Christmas tree being decorated by the town's schools and a specially commissioned star for the top of the tree, a stage programme of community content and additionally the adjacent trees in Fletcher square being adorned with festive lighting.
- 1.5 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 civic festive Lantern Parade as well as the proposals for the Christmas Switch On events. Additionally it sets out the plans for marking the Coronation of King Charles III: a nationally significant event.

2. 2023 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 Contests, Armed Forces Day, Remembrance Services and Parades and the corporate festive 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, it is worth noting that the implications of the pandemic in terms of community support for key events such as Remembrance and the Brass Band Contests are still being felt as well as the impact across event infrastructure companies in terms of staff drain and increased expenses.

Tameside Whit Friday Brass Band Contest

- 2.3 Tameside Whit Friday brass band contests take place on Whit Friday each year. This is considered the first brass band contest in the country charting its routes back to the 1870s in Stalybridge and Mossley. 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 tradition and the opportunity to hear and see some of the greatest brass bands the country has to offer for free.

- 2.4 The Tameside Brass Band Contest will take place on 2 June 2023. 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).
- 2.5 The contest is coordinated by the Brass Band Committee but due to its high profile it has remained a key feature of 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.
- 2.6 However, the contests were cancelled by the Brass Band Committee in 2020 and 2021 and online contests was held instead due to Covid restrictions and the bands not having been able to come together and practice face to face. The online presence brought Tameside MBC a strong reputation as a supporter of the competitions and their future.
- 2.7 2022 therefore saw the first live brass band contest in 3 years. Whilst this was gratefully appreciated and everyone involved were excited to be returning to the band circuits and contests after the hiatus and complications relating to the pandemic it did also mean that there were only 9 contests in the borough instead of the previous years' 11 individual contests. Whilst the committee is working closely with the Council to ensure that these 9 will remain as contests this year and continues to encourage new community organisers to come on-board there is a risk that further contests may falter due to lack of community organisers coming forwards.
- 2.8 The Event Panel proposes that the Council continues to support this high profile locally and nationally significant event through the ongoing support from the Arts and Events Team and wider operations and Neighbourhood Directorate. Additionally the Panel proposes that the annual prize funds of £7,350 (paid since 1989) remains the same and if there are less contests the prize monies are split accordingly rather than reduce the total prize fund.

Armed Forces Day

- 2.9 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.
- 2.10 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 Denton Jubilee Square. This has been followed by a family fun day in Victoria Park involving arts activities, music on the bandstand, information stands, theatre, obstacle courses and traditional cream teas being serviced in the adjacent Victoria Park Community Centre. The day brings on average 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.
- 2.11 2022 saw Armed Forces Day return to its usual format after 2 years' of online presence only due to Covid restrictions. The event was attended by 5000 people and was warmly welcomed back into the park by Tameside's Armed Forces community and audiences alike.
- 2.12 The events panel proposes that Armed Forces Day takes place in Victoria Park, Denton on Saturday 24 June 2023 in line with national celebrations. It also suggests that the event will

continue to 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

- 2.13 Tameside has a rich, proud and full history of marking Remembrance Sunday through Services and Parades. Annually Tameside hosts approximately 22 Services and 11 Parades across the borough during Remembrance weekend. In 2022 these had a combined audience of over 10,000 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 a joint future.
- 2.14 However, it was also noted that at the larger scale Parades organised by the Council in Ashton, Denton and Hyde there were increased number of particularly elderly and frail members of the public attending. In order to facilitate the Parades and Services safely the Panel recommends that revenue budget is set aside to fund medical cover at these larger scale Parades.
- 2.15 The Events Panel together with Democratic Services propose that the Services and Parades continue to take place in 2023 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 11-12 November 2023. Additionally the Panel proposes that a corporate Act of Remembrance takes place Saturday 11 November 2023 at 11am outside Dukinfield Town Hall.
- 2.16 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. Based on the success of 2022 the Panel is therefore recommending that £7,000 is set aside from the Arts and Engagement's revenue budget to key high risk road closures and medical cover for the larger events as required.

3. CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS 2023

- 3.1 The programme of Christmas activities from the corporate festive Lantern Parade to the town based Switch Ons are the most high profile events the Council either organises or supports. They are very well attended, have local support, provide additional footfall to our town centres and therefore support businesses during their Christmas trading. 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 2023.

The Tameside Lantern Parade

- 3.2 Traditionally the corporate Tameside Lantern Parade has been staged in Ashton but due to the ongoing building works it was agreed in the 2022 Civic Events Report that the Parade would alternate between Ashton, Denton, Stalybridge and Hyde. These Towns were considered to have sufficient space to host such large scale events and had safe and secure routes for the lantern parade to take place.
- 3.3 The parade in 2022 therefore took place in Ashton on the 19 November and was renamed the Tameside Christmas Celebrations and was put together with input from the Town Team and Ashton Councillors. The parade was the largest yet with over 1500 people, all of whom had taken part in the making of lanterns, creating dances and the large scale puppets which formed part of the parade. The Parade was created by Cabasa CIC, a carnival organisation based in Tameside, Handmade Parade just over the border in Yorkshire and the Council's

Arts and Engagement Team. On the evening 5500 attended the parade and light Switch On in Ashton Town centre.

- 3.4 The Ashton event also benefitted from a festive Town window trail which saw 12 local artists working in partnership with businesses in Ashton to create festive window displays. The trail was launched on the evening and was created as a countdown to the 1st December and to provide additional motivations for residents to come into Ashton Town Centre over the festive period thereby supporting businesses and the Town Centre. The trail was warmly received and businesses were keen to be involved.
- 3.5 With development of Tameside One, the ongoing landscaping of the town centre. Ashton is core economic centre for Tameside. It has easy access and transport links with the rest of Tameside and further afield. The town centre square is the biggest in the borough and enables the Council to develop and increase the festive offer on the day of the lantern parade thereby benefitting more businesses and residents. It is therefore proposed that the lantern parade ceases its rotation of the 4 towns and remains an annual event for Tameside taking place in Ashton. This will enable more forward planning, develop the event as a tourism offer and key part of Greater Manchester's winter lights events programme. It will allow for the event to grow to encompass a full day of activities bringing a festive market offer, food and drinks and entertainment to the borough. It is proposed that Tameside's central event will lead the Christmas celebrations as in previous years and take place in Ashton Town Centre on Saturday 18 November 2023. The event will be managed and coordinated by the Operations and Neighbourhood's Directorate's Cultural Services and produced by a professional Carnival organisation with support from community groups and local schools.
- 3.6 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 element of the parade, however the Council was advised in 2022 that it would not be possible for ACE to continue that level of investment. £11,000 was secured from GMCA's Cultural and Social Investment Fund via GMArts which the Cultural Services is a member of. In 2023 however there is currently no external funding agreed for the Lantern Parade. However, as this Report is being written GMCA has confirmed that the Council has been awarded UK Shared Prosperity Funding. Within this bid the Council did propose that some of the Cultural Organisational Development funding would be used to support the creative content of this large scale event. Additionally GMArts has submitted a bid to GMCA's Cultural and Social Investment Fund, and if this is agreed it will also leverage in funding to support the creative content of the Lantern Parade. It is also expected that the Council will commit £25,000 of the revenue budget for Arts and Engagement towards the production of the Parade to ensure the high quality can be maintained. The Events Panel is therefore not proposing that additional funding is found to support the Parade. A market offer and associated entertainment programme on the day is not going to incur the Council any costs bar staffing and security costs which can be incorporated into the Lantern Parade costs.

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 traditions 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 sponsorships etc. Any funding shortfall is not automatically met by the Council but in-kind support is available through marketing, technical and event management support and sponsorship advice.
- 3.9 In 2022 all 9 towns took up either the full or part of the Christmas package offer which included a free Christmas tree, Christmas tree lights and installation of these elements and

logistical and production support for their events. This made for a smooth process which enabled the Arts and Events team to tailor their support to the unique nature of the events. It also meant that events were signed off and considered safe when paperwork was submitted to Licensing by the Event organisers.

- 3.10 The Events Panel is very cognisant of the cost of living crisis and the impact this has on local residents and the Council alike. However the Events Panel was pleased to see that the Council did not reduce its support for the town Switch On events and that these were in fact attended by an on average higher audience number than in previous years. The Panel believes this is due to residents staying locally and looking for more free festive opportunities and it believes that this will be the same in 2023.
- 3.11 The Events Panel therefore proposes that the Council again offers the towns a free cut Christmas tree and associated lights including installation and de-installation in 2023. There are three exceptions to this plan. Firstly Droylsden will be offered to retain the refurbished metal tree purchased by the Town Team in commemoration of the previous Leader Councillor Kieran Quinn. Secondly a living tree has been planted by the Hub in Hattersley so a newly purchased tree will not be required but the remaining offer will still be made. Thirdly the fir tree growing adjacent to the cut tree location in Audenshaw is now taller than the cut tree would be so in 2022 it was agreed with the Christmas Switch On organisers there that the growing tree would be lit instead. Again, the offer of lights would remain in place. The Panel is aware that the cost of Christmas trees have gone up but with the above exceptions it will be possible for the Council to fund the purchase of the trees. But the Panel is also aware that there will be an increase in costs due to higher energy and fuel prices impacting on the installation, de-installation and energy consumption.
- 3.12 If the above proposal is approved the Events Panel proposes that £18,000 is allocated from the revenue budget to cover the costs associated with the trees, assuming that all towns take up the offer. The Panel recommends that the Arts and Engagement Team explore further sponsorship opportunities to support the Town Christmas Switch On events both as individual events and as a package to maintain the logistical support 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 One events as they choose.
- Ashton (Tameside corporate Christmas event) 18 November 2023
 - Audenshaw 24 November 2023 tbc
 - Stalybridge 24 November 2023 tbc
 - Dukinfield 24 November 2023 tbc
 - Denton 25 November 2023 tbc
 - Mossley 25 November 2023 tbc
 - Hyde 25 November 2023 tbc
 - Droylsden 2 December 2023 tbc
 - Hattersley 2 December 2023 tbc
- 3.13 However, there were also some instances on unsafe practices observed at these events in 2022 where advice and recommendations put forward had not been taken into account. The Panel therefore believes that to continue to make the best use of the monies allocated it must be mandatory for the Christmas Event organisers to attend a specially designed Christmas Switch On event management training session in July 2023. At this session organisers will be supported in understanding the risks and implications of additionalities such as fairground rides, gazebos, stages and entertainment. They will be introduced to new templates making the process of organising their events easier and there will be sufficient Council staff present to talk through their plans for Christmas 2023. Whilst organisers only have to attend one session, the following two dates have already been identified by the Council's Health and Safety Team and Arts and Engagement Team:

- Monday 10 July 2023 at Tameside Local Studies and Archives Centre
- Monday 17 July 2023 at Tameside Local Studies and Archives Centre

3.14 Finally the Panel proposes that all Christmas Switch On plans are submitted to Licensing via the Event Notification process no later than 7 September 2023 in order to benefit from the above offer. This will leave enough time to assess and triage the notifications as well as sufficient time to procure logistical equipment, medical cover and put road closure orders in place etc.

4. NATIONALLY SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

4.1 Occasionally there will be annual events of national and local significance which the Events Panel proposes that the Council marks corporately and or through community engagement activity. The activities below represents the events which the Event Panel proposes the Council marks in 2023.

Pride

4.2 Pride events and parades take place across the country and internationally, they are seen as celebratory activities and events which champion LGBTQIA+ communities, equality and diversity. Tameside Pride campaigns for LGBTQIA+: celebrates LGBTQIA+ life and creates opportunities that engage LGBTQIA+ people so that they can thrive. There is a desire by community groups in Tameside to celebrate the diverse LGBTQIA+ communities at a local level. The Events Panel will ensure that the Council offers support to develop these community led plans. Tameside Council stands in solidarity and pride with our LGBTQIA+ community and believes in equality for all.

King Charles III Coronation

4.3 Whilst King Charles III ascended to the throne following the death of his mother, the late Queen Elizabeth II on the 8 September 2022 the formal investiture of a monarch's regal powers will take place on Saturday 6 May 2023. Camilla, the Queen Consort, will also be crowned at the same time. There are now some official plans for how communities across the Country can mark this significant and historical moment, these involve encouraging communities to hold Big Lunches and also to get involved in volunteering. A National Bank Holiday has been agreed for Monday 8 May 2023, whilst still retaining the 1 May Bank Holiday also.

4.4 At the Queen's Coronation and indeed at the Platinum Jubilee in 2022 Street parties were a national way of celebrating and marking these historical moments. The Events Panel therefore proposes that a specially designed Street Party guidance pack is designed to support communities to organise their own special celebrations over the bank holiday weekend in line with national celebratory recommendations for a Big Coronation Lunch.

4.5 Additionally the Panel proposes that the Arts and Engagement team continues to explore what plans may be announced nationally by the Pageant Master's Office in order for Tameside to support national initiatives where applicable and practicable in dialogue with the Events Panel.

Stalybridge Town of Culture legacy Arts Festival 2023

4.6 Whilst Stalybridge Town of Culture 2022 officially came to a close in December 2022, there were plans put in place to support the legacy of the 2022 programme. Therefore, the Bridge, the Cultural Consortium, set up as part of the Stalybridge Heritage Action Zone programme bid for an opportunity to work with the arts organisation Emergency Exit Arts to deliver an arts festival in Stalybridge in 2023.

4.7 The bid was successful and will bring £42,000 of creative content developed together with the Bridge to Stalybridge on Saturday 9 September 2023 to coincide with Heritage Month

and the Canal festival initially planned for 2022 but sadly cancelled due to the mourning of the late Queen Elizabeth II.

- 4.8 The Arts and Engagement Team is currently working with the Bridge on a legacy Arts Council bid to support the above project and other legacy creative content following the Town of Culture year. If successful it will enable to community partners to enhance and develop more creative content for the 9 September and throughout 2023.
- 4.9 The Events Panel proposes that the Arts and Engagement Team continues to work with the community organisers and support them with event management and logistical advice.

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 2022 ten productions were performed and fully booked in Tameside's parks and green spaces The programme received high praise and notably spectators commented that to have free events to attend during August had been extra important to them as they couldn't afford to go further afield. The Events Panel recognises the challenges Tameside residents are experiencing and believes that families will be increasingly looking towards local entertainment and opportunities in the years ahead. It believes that the Council should continue to host a free programme of family holiday activities and also believes that local businesses will benefit from residents' spending and remaining locally. The summer Theatre programme is free to all families and often attracts over 500 people in a day to see the nationally recognised theatre companies perform live in our parks. It is envisaged that there will be 10 performances taking place across Tameside's parks during the August summer holiday in 2023 also. Locations will be:
- Mossley Park, Old Brow Mossley
 - 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 Tameside 1119 young people signed up to the challenge in libraries which included 460 new sign ups to the library service by young people. The theme was *Gadgeteers*, and as well as encouraging children to read up to 6 books, staff in libraries put on a significant number of activities over the summer holidays, including author events and craft sessions.

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 2023 has not yet been set but once announced Local History groups together with Tameside Local Studies will begin to

plan activities during the weekends. Alongside the Heritage Open Day events other activities are being programmed to highlight and celebrate the borough's heritage. In 2023 this will include walks, talks and tours across the borough but with a particular focus stories and the rich heritage and history of Tameside.

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 £18,000 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 focus is put on sponsorship opportunities to further support event organisers with event logistics.

6.2 Existing revenue budget of £25,000 from Arts and Engagement is allocated to support the corporate Christmas event. Additionally and once governance is in place it is envisaged the UKSPF funding will support the creative content of the Parade. Should GMArts be successful in their funding bid, additional creative content will also be developed for the Parade.

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.

Remembrance Parades and Services

6.4 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 £7,000 of revenue budget is allocated for medical support and professionally managed road closures where required.

Armed Forces Day

6.5 Tameside Armed Forces day will be funded through the existing revenue budget from Arts and Engagement to the total of £7,000.

Whit Friday

6.6 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.

King Charles III Coronation

6.7 The proposals put forward in this report regarding the Street party lunches will be covered through existing revenue budgets.

Pride

6.8 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 revenue budget allocation proposed by the Events Panel for the above mentioned events.

Table 1

| Revenue Budget Allocation | Amount |
|--|----------------|
| Whit Friday Brass Band Contest Prize money | £7,350 |
| Armed Forces Day | £7,000 |
| Remembrance support and additional road closure management and medical cover | £7,000 |
| Tameside festive Lantern Parade | £25,000 |
| Tameside Town Christmas support package for trees and lights | £18,000 |
| Total revenue allocation | £64,350 |

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 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 such as the Coronation of King Charles III in 2023.
- 8.3 The Panel proposes the plans to deliver Remembrance Services and Parades in line with 2022 are adopted and the revenue budget allocations are noted to ensure these can run safely in 2023.

- 8.4 Significantly this report also includes the proposed plans for the corporate Lantern Parade to cease rotating between the four towns but return to Ashton annually as this is the economic centre and is easily accessible for all residents. This would mean that Ashton will host the lantern parade from 2023 onwards.
- 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 that further sponsorship opportunities are explored to further support organisers with logistics following their mandatory Christmas Switch On training and compliance with Event Notifications being submitted by the 7 September 2023. 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.

APPENDIX 1

1. Prizes & Venues

1.1 Whit Friday Brass Band Contest Prizes

Tameside Council overall 2023 Overall Prizes

| Prize name | Prize fund allocation |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Open 1 st Prize | £2,000 and receipt of the Tameside Rose Bowl Trophy |
| Open 2 nd Prize | £1,000 |
| Open 3 rd Prize | £750 |
| Overall 1 st Section Prize | £500 |
| Overall 2 nd Section Prize | £400 |
| Overall 3 rd Section Prize | £350 |
| Overall 4 th Section Prize | £300 |
| Local 1 st Prize | £750 and receipt of The Brian Hill Memorial Trophy. |
| Local 2 nd Prize | £600 |
| Local 3 rd Prize | £400 |
| Youth 1 st Prize | £200 |
| Youth 2 nd Prize | £100 |
| Total prize fund | £7,350 |

1.2 Whit Friday Brass Band Contest to be confirmed venues 2023

| Contest | Venue |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ASHTON, BROADOAK | ASHTON RUGBY CLUB |
| DENTON, | DENTON CRICKET CLUB |
| DUKINFIELD, | THE TAME VALLEY HOTEL |
| HEROD | HEYROD VILLAGE HALL |
| HURST VILLAGE, ASHTON UFC | ASHTON UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB |
| STALYBRIDGE, CARRBROOK | CARRBROOK VILLAGE |
| STALYBRIDGE CELTIC | BOWER FOLD |
| STALYBRIDGE LABOUR | STALYBRIDGE NEW LABOUR CLUB |
| MOSSLEY | SEEL PARK |