Cyngor Tref Trallwng Welshpool Town Council

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Title	Christmas Lights Motif Hire
Date	28th April 2026

1. Purpose

1. To consider options for the Council's Christmas lights provision for the 2026/27 season and to approve a preferred approach.

2. Background

1. At the Events & Tourism Committee meeting held on 20th September 2023 the Council resolved to enter into a Christmas lights arrangement with Blachere Illuminations (Minute No ET32/2023). This included:
    1. Festoon warm lights (£11,100 + VAT)
    2. Warm white bulbs (£9,900 + VAT)
    3. Cross street feature hire (£2,023.72 + VAT), with the ability to change motifs every three years
    4. Associated storage arrangements
2. The current arrangement for cross street features are now due for renewal, and updated quotations have been obtained from Blachere Illuminations.

3. Quotations

1. Option A - 1 year extension of existing scheme
    1. This would include the hire of the existing cross features at £1815.27, carriage of £400 and storage of £625 resulting in a total of £2840.27.
2. Option B - 1 year hire of new motifs
    1. This would include the hire of new motifs at £2,384.80, carriage of £400 and storage of £625 resulting in a total of £3,409.80.
    2. The new motifs are similar to what we have now but instead of a star, it is a halo shaped design.

4. Comparison

1. The difference between retaining the existing scheme and introducing new motifs is approximately £569.53 (excl. VAT).
2. Budget provision exists for Christmas lights within the Council’s revenue budget, however most of this was reserved for installation and not lighting infrastructure.
3. There is the option to cut costs by storing the lights ourselves to cut down on carriage and storage costs, however the lights remain on hire and we'd be liable for any damage incurred.

5. Links to Strategic Objectives and Interim Strategic Plan

1. Describe how the topic relates to the Council's ISP.

6. Resource & Legal Implications

1. The costs can be met from the existing Christmas lights budget however this was mainly intended for installation costs meaning the budget line is likely to be overspent by year end due to this unforseen cost. A waiver in Financial Regulations will apply due to the costs involved (more than £1000) as it is a continuation of an existing contract.
2. The Council has the power to provide decorations and lighting under its general powers relating to community wellbeing and tourism. There is a risk that if we stored the lights that damage could be incurred, but it could be a good way to cut out a cost of £1,050, but we'd need to ensure that adequate storage space existed across our estate.

7. Specific Implications

1. None.

8. Recommendation

1. None.

9. Decision

1. To consider which option to select.