Festive Lighting Programme 2024/25 noted.

9 There was submitted a report by the Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability (NRS) regarding the 2024/25 Festive Lighting Programme, advising

(1) that each Area Partnership would be awarded £3,600 central funding to meet the costs of erecting and maintaining festive lighting;

(2) of the festive lighting location for the ward delivered as part of the 2024/25 programme, as detailed in the report;

(3) of the standard pricing schedule for the 2023/24 festive lighting programme, and the cost to repeat the 2023/24 programme in 2024/25, as detailed in the report;

(4) that the standard pricing schedule for the 2024/25 festive lighting programme remained the same as previous years, however prices would be undergoing a review, which would be provided at the September Partnership meeting;

(5) that the Festive Lighting delivery programme was subject to a new procurement exercise for years 2025 to 2028;

(6) that the Partnership would be able to nominate additional or alternative festive lighting locations to those delivered as part of the 2024/25 programme, and that should any new location be proposed, NRS required to be notified by 28th April 2024 to allow the feasibility and cost of the new locations to be assessed and allow the 2024/25 programme to be finalised by 30th June 2024;

(7) that the Partnership would be invited to identify locations where a switch-on event was proposed to be held for either a Christmas tree or natural tree and that column mounted features would come on at the same time as the street lights on the day of installation;

(8) that if the total cost of the delivery of the festive lighting programme selected by the Area Partnership exceeded the £3,600 central funding, the balance of the funding would require to be met by the Area Partnership from other funds; and

(9) that the costs to repeat the 2023/24 programme in 2024/25 was £11,700.

After consideration, the Partnership

(a) noted

(i) the 2024/25 festive lighting arrangements and the central funding available for the 2024/25 programme; and

(ii) that approval of the necessary funding for any additional costs over and above the central funding would be made at the September Area Partnership meeting; and

(b) raised questions in relation to the 2024/25 completion date of 30th June 2024 to which Francine O'Rourke, City Services, Events and Neighbourhood Liaison Group Manager, advised that this could be discussed and proposals presented at the next Area Partnership meeting in addition to any new locations for additional festive lighting which the partnership agreed to.