**Festive Lighting Programme - Update noted**

**3** There was submitted a report by the Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability (NRS) regarding the 2023/24 Festive Lighting Programme, advising

(1) that each Area Partnership had been 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 2022/23 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 2022/23 programme in 2023/24, as detailed in the report;

(1) that the Partnership would be able to nominate additional or alternative festive lighting locations to those delivered as part of the 2023/24 programme, and that should any new location be proposed, NRS required notification by the next meeting of this Partnership to allow the feasibility and cost of the new locations to be assessed;

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

(3) 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.

After consideration, the Partnership

(a) noted the 2022/23 festive lighting arrangements and the central funding available for the 2023/24 programme;

(b) highlighted concern at the cost of Christmas trees and suggested that new suppliers that were cheaper and more sustainable should be investigated for the future; and

(c) agreed the total funding for the projects of £11,305, less the central funding of £3,600, which resulted in a balance of £7,705 that would be met from the Area Partnership budget.