

Festive Lighting update noted – Request to Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability.

5 With reference to the minutes of 19th April 2023 when the Area Partnership requested a breakdown of individual costs of festive lighting to investigate the potential for community groups to secure procurement of Christmas trees for the future festive lighting programme and if community groups could decorate the sited Christmas tree, there was heard a report by Mr Stephen Blanchflower, Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability (NRS) advising

- (1) that he had recently taken over the role from David Hay (NRS);
- (2) of the difficulty to breakdown individual costs and that going forward lighting that had previously been hired at a cost would now be purchased and provided by own teams, with a change to LED lighting that would mean there would be no longer a requirement for a safety barrier around the Christmas trees; and
- (3) that a breakdown of future costings would be required due to a new pricing regime across the city and agreed that costs would be presented January 2024.

After consideration, the Partnership

- (a) noted the report and raised questions in relation to information, guidance, and of the processes that would be available to community groups and of the expenses that would be involved,
- (b) highlighted concerns and disappointment that the requested information from the previous Partnership meeting of 19th April 2023 had not been provided by (NRS) to provide a breakdown of individual costs of festive lighting; and
- (c) requested that the Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability provide a report to detail a breakdown of costs for Festive Lights and Christmas trees and to be circulated to all members of the Partnership as soon as possible.