

WEDNESDAY, 22 JANUARY 2020

**REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR CULTURE AND OPERATIONAL SERVICES****PROVISION OF FIREWORKS****EXEMPT INFORMATION**

None

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to update Cabinet on the current situation regarding the Fireworks Tender and to seek approval to progress the award.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that:

1. Cabinet approves the decision to tender for fireworks for a five year period.
2. Cabinet delegates authority to the Assistant Director, Operations and Leisure in conjunction with the Theatre, Artistic and Events Manager to enter into contract with the most advantageous tenderer as detailed within the report.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report aims to explain why a tender process for a period of 5 years will be of benefit to the Council on a long-term basis.

The free fireworks event has grown over the past 10 years to the large scale project it is now and this is in no small part due to the calibre of fireworks the Council has been able to procure. The contract for the provision of fireworks is tendered on a yearly basis and as such, is open to attract strong contenders for the event. Though a yearly process has benefited the Council in that it has allowed the event to be defined, shaped and reshaped we are now in a position to tender for a longer period. The lengthier tender award would have the benefit of:

- ✓ Enabling the Council to negotiate a better rate which will prove sustainable over a longer term. As the Council's biggest community event and expenditure it makes financial sense to be seen and demonstrating that the Council is striving to achieve value for money.
- ✓ Avoiding price hikes in line with inflation or national demand.
- ✓ Creating better working relationships with the successful tenderer.
- ✓ Saving administration time on annual basis for what is already our largest community event.

## **LEGAL/RISK IMPLICATIONS BACKGROUND**

Outsourcing a contract for a lengthy period of time runs the risk of sub-standard service/complacency being provided after a certain time has passed. In order to mitigate this risk the Council will write within the contract that certain standards will be maintained and achieved. Annual performance review of the contract and event will be completed to ensure that the contract remains fit for purpose. The Council will reserve the right to cancel the agreement at any time.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The Council has a history of creating large scale community events, of which the annual Fireworks event is the largest. In 2019 the Council were featured on BBC News as the largest scale free Fireworks event in the Midlands, a claim that benefits the Council's reputation as well as revenue generation for the town. The event continues to attract crowds of many thousands. Post event evaluation shows that visitors to this event increase their spending in the town centre businesses boosting the local economy

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATION**

The costs of the fireworks will be met from existing revenue budgets and are estimated to cost in the region of £15,000 per year, totalling £75,000 over the five years period.

## **REPORT AUTHORS**

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