

	<p><b>Andover Town Council</b></p> <p>To <b>receive</b> and <b>note</b> the report in order to be able to answer residents questions if asked.</p>	<p>Item No.</p>
<p><b>Produced for:</b> Full Council</p>	<p><b>By:</b> Town Clerk</p>	<p><b>Date of Report:</b> 12 November 2025</p>
<p><b>Background:</b> The Christmas Lights are now up The Christmas Tree has been installed and decorated.</p>		
<p>Officers and Cllr Ted Reynolds spent two long and wet nights on the High Street with the installers on the weekend of 8 November 2025 getting the lights up and the tree in. Huge thanks to Cllr Reynolds and the amazing Positive Lighting for battling with the elements to achieve this.</p> <p>Members will have noted the more slimline tree this year, it is the same height as last year but Andover Town Council has no control over the width nor look of the tree year on year. The same high quality is delivered but the appearance does change from year to year depending on growing conditions of each year.</p> <p>Members will have seen the new extension reaching from Western Avenue along Northern Avenue to meet up with the car parks. It is hoped that this will offer more Christmas cheer to the residents of Andover.</p> <p><b>Reminder that the Christmas Festival is on:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Date: Thursday, 21 November 2025</li> <li>• Switch-On Time: 6:00 PM</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Issues encountered and lessons for next year:</b></p> <p><b>Fencing round the Christmas tree</b> – this is sturdy and fit for purpose but perhaps not the most aesthetically pleasing. More attractive fencing with equal stability has been sourced and found for next year and will be brought back to this Committee for approval in the New Year.</p> <p><b>Commando Sockets</b> – 3 of the commando sockets posed an issue this year. The most obvious being Column 2 (outside Peacocks), there is currently no power to it. This is something that SSE will need to review and they have been contacted, with the deadline of the switch on, to fix it. Further more Columns 2 and 6 on London Street were waterlogged. The installers were able to effect a temporary fix and SSE have been notified.</p> <p><b>Scaffold and High Street works</b> – due to the scaffold around the old Wilko building, one wrap round light was unable to be installed. Due to the scaffold up on the new Lights building the columns in Waterloo Court were inaccessible for decoration. Similarly column 8 at the top of the High Street was inaccessible due to the work being done to the electricity cable.</p>		
<p><b>Relevance to Business Plan</b> (approved at Full Council C408/03/25):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Help make Andover a welcoming, safe, and well cared for town</li> <li>1.1 Further extend the Christmas Lights</li> </ol>		
<p><b>Legislation giving power to undertake:</b></p> <p>Local Government Act 1972 s.144 Local Government Act 1972 s.137</p>		
<p><b>Next Steps:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To <b>receive</b> and <b>note</b> the report in order to be able to answer residents questions if asked.</li> </ul>		