



Andover Town Council

Item No.

14

It is recommended that Council:

1. **Reviews the lighting options** presented in this report and determines a preferred option (Option A, Option B, or a mixed configuration). From a logistical point of view the recommendation would be for Option C.
2. **Authorises the Town Clerk** to liaise with the supplier to confirm availability and finalise the order. (following approval and liaison with TVBC for permissions)

To: Full Council

From: Town Clerk / RFO

Date of Report: 2 March 2026

Purpose of Report:

To present Full Council with information regarding proposed new Christmas lighting installations for the Pocket Park area and to request direction on the preferred option so that suppliers can be notified and stock reserved.

Background

The Council has been liaising with the supplier regarding potential new Christmas lighting installations for Pocket Park, in line with the Business Plan objective to further extend the town's Christmas lighting this year, albeit taking a different direction following public feedback.

Updated specifications and quotations have now been received, detailing two principal decorative options, each with its own considerations relating to size, installation requirements, and cost.

Options Provided

Option A: Walk-Through Bauble & Alpine Tree (Specification: SQ202619)

- **Features:**
 - A large, illuminated *walk-through bauble with seating* (Model GX155LW).
 - A *bespoke Alpine tree* (Model SV507W) (Decorative fencing included).
- **Considerations:**
 - The bauble is **very large**, and the supplier has raised concerns about:
 - Whether it will comfortably fit in the Pocket Park space.
 - The potential need for larger equipment for installation.
 - The supplier has indicated that, if this option is preferred, they can review the site and identify a workable location.

GX155LW	SV507W
<p>£6680.28 +VAT per annum</p>	<p>£3860.25 +VAT per annum</p>

Option B: Christmas Tree Arch & Sapin Tree (Specification: SQ202619)

- **Features:**
 - A *magic Christmas tree arch* (Model SL016).
 - A **5-metre Sapin tree** (Model SND02) (Decorative fencing included).
- **Considerations:**
 - This combination is **more flexible** regarding installation locations within the Pocket Park.
 - It is also **slightly cheaper** than Option A.

SL018	SND02
<p>£4745.94 +VAT per annum</p>	<p>£5591.55 +VAT per annum</p>

Mixed Options

The supplier has confirmed that the Council may also choose to mix elements from both options if desired, subject to stock availability.

***** Before any order is placed, Officers will need to confirm whether planning permission or space-hire approval is required from Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC), and ensure that a suitable electricity supply is available for the chosen installation. Also if the installations will conflict with the Christmas Festival.*****

Urgency and Stock Availability

The supplier has requested a decision as soon as possible to assist with stock control, as multiple organisations may be considering the same decorative items.

Alignment with the Andover Town Council Business Plan

The proposal supports **Priority 1: Help make Andover a welcoming, safe, and well-cared-for town.**

The installation of an extension to the Christmas Lights offering directly contributes to the delivery of the following Business Plan actions:

1.1 Christmas Tree and Lights

Business Plan Commitments:

- 2025–26: Extend the Christmas lights display; purchase new fencing for the Christmas tree.
- 2026–27: Further extend the Christmas lights display.

How this proposal supports delivery:

- Introduces new illuminated features in the Town Mills Pocket Park as part of the extension planned for 2026–27.
- Provides a scalable approach: the arch and tree meet current space and event requirements, while leaving open the option to consider a larger 3D feature in future years.
- Enhances the visual impact of festive decorations, strengthening Andover’s town-centre offering.

This proposal strengthens the appearance and appeal of the town centre, supports community events, and demonstrates the Council’s commitment to ongoing improvements in line with the phased actions planned for 2025–27. It delivers a visible enhancement that is cost-effective, responsive to public feedback, and aligned with the Business Plan’s focus on making Andover welcoming, safe, and well cared for.

Financial considerations (see hyperlinks for clarity):

Cost for option A per year (2 years left on the contract):	Year 1-£11,340.33 +VAT Year 2-£11,340.33 +VAT
Cost for Option B per year (2 years left on the Contract):	Year 1-£11,137.49 +VAT Year 2-£11,137.49 +VAT
Cost for Option C per year (2 years left on the contract): (Tree from Option A (SV507W) and arch from Option B (SL018))	Year 1-£8,605.99 +VAT Year 2-£8,605.99 +VAT

Legislation:

Local Government Act 1972, s.145¹

Recommendations

It is recommended that Council:

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¹ [Local Government Act 1972](#)