

## FULL COUNCIL 14<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2021

### RESULTS OF THE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS ELECTRICAL HEALTH CHECK

#### 1. PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To receive details of the recent electrical health check undertaken on the electrical supply for the Christmas Lights and approve the funding required to meet the regulations and standards.

#### 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 This health check was commissioned following problems encountered with some of the electrics in 2020. SparkX, the Christmas Lights contractor undertook this inspection on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> July.
- 2.2 The electrics for the lights were installed by the previous Christmas Lights contractors using sub contractors. There is no documentation relating to any warranty on this work and SparkX are of the opinion that most of the work was carried out many years ago with the exception of St Johns Square where more recently street light column motifs were added to the former lighting scheme. Therefore any warranty is likely to have expired.

#### 3. RESULTS

- 3.1 The results of the health check make sober reading. The vast majority of the supplies have failed to meet the regulations handbook standard and as a result are 'non-compliant'. This is one of the poorest health checks carried out by this contractor as so many items have failed. Individual reports on all the checks carried out have been sent through by SparkX and are available to view.
- 3.2 The Christmas Light installers last year recommended this health check as they could see all was not as it should be but were not expecting as many supplies to fail.
- 3.3 The most notable concern is the lack of protection (RCD) throughout on the street columns and wall mounted electrical boxes which makes them dangerous. If the supply becomes live through a fault in the system there is a real chance of electrocution to an operative or the public in the case of a street column. It is alarming that the previous contractor installed the electrical supplies in this non compliant manner.
- 3.4 The supplies at St Johns Square are compliant and most of the supplies associated with catenary wires are compliant. The main issue is the supplies for the street column motifs.

#### 4. COST PROPOSALS

- 4.1 SparkX has provided a cost breakdown for the work that must be carried out to ensure compliance and additional costs for the installation of timeclocks which would enable the street column decorations to be turned off rather than stay on 24 hours which has been the situation to date.

- 4.2 In total 17 columns and 8 wall boxes require immediate attention and full overhaul at a cost of £9950 (17 columns £5950, 8 wall mounted supplies £4000). This cost would include reusing the time clocks that are currently in situ to control the festoon lighting and LED spheres. With this option, the decorations on the street columns would be on 24/7 from the time they lights are switched on in November until they are switched off in January whereas the festoon lighting and LED spheres would switch off a midnight and switch on at 4pm.
- 4.3 To install new timeclocks throughout (to control street column decorations and decorations on the catenary wires) would be an additional £2100. There is merit in putting in new and doing everything in one go but this will cost £12,050. To just add new timeclocks for the 17 street light columns would £1700 so another option would be to use the old timeclocks for the festoon lighting and new timeclocks for the street columns at a cost of £11,650
- 4.4 In summary the options are:
- Carry out works to comply, reuse timeclocks £9950
  - Carry out the works to comply, reuse some timeclocks and buy 17 new £11,650
  - Carry out works to comply, install all new timeclocks £12,050
- 4.5 The Christmas Lights budget is fully committed and therefore the additional funding would be taken from reserves.
- 4.6 Work carried out by SparkX would be by their in-house qualified electricians and will have a 5 year warranty. SparkX do not use sub-contractors.

## **5. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 5.1 To approve an additional £9,950 to bring the electrical supplies up to the required standard.