



City of Westminster

Executive Summary and Recommendations

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| | Cabinet Member Report |
| Date: | 16/11/2021 |
| Subject: | Approval of Expenditure from the Ward Budget of Abbey Road and Regent's Park |

1. Summary

1.1 This report seeks approval for the expenditure of £10,440.00 from the Abbey Road and Regent's Park Ward Budget in order to commission:

- (a) St John's Wood High Street Christmas Lights 2021

Recommendation

That the Cabinet Member for Communities and Regeneration approves the release of funds in the amount of £10,440.00 in respect of the above proposal, from the ward members of Abbey Road and Regent's Park wards, as detailed in the report.



City of Westminster

Cabinet Member Report

Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member for Communities and Regeneration

Date:

16/11/2021

Classification:

For General Release

Title of Report:

Approval of Expenditure from the Ward Budget of Abbey Road and Regent's Park

Report of:

Head of Governance and Councillor Liaison

Wards involved:

Abbey Road and Regent's Park

Policy context:

Ward Budget Programme

Financial summary:

The proposed expenditure of £5,220.00 from the Abbey Road Ward Budget leaves £33,776.19 remaining for allocation in the current financial year.

The proposed expenditure of £5,220.00 from the Regent's Park Ward Budget leaves £53,130.82 remaining for allocation in the current financial year.

Report Author:

Clare O'Keefe, Committee and Councillor Coordinator

Contact details

**This matter is being handled by:
Clare O'Keefe Committee and Councillor Coordinator, 07811 721748,
cokeefe@westminster.gov.uk**

1. Background Information

- 1.1 Ward budgets were established under the City Council's Neighbourhood Programme agreed by the Cabinet in November 2007.
- 1.2 The programme enables ward members to fund projects in the local area which benefit residents of that area and/or meet local priorities.
- 1.3 £46,000 is provided to each ward in each financial year of a 4-year electoral cycle. Monies not spent in year roll-over to the next until the end of the cycle.
- 1.4 Budget provision for the financial years 2018 to 2022 equates to £184,000 per ward.
- 1.5 All decisions on projects to be funded are made by the ward members from the wards concerned, to support their local priorities.

2. Proposed Projects

- 2.1 £10,440.00 will fund St John's Wood High Street Christmas Lights 2021.

The Christmas lights have been traditionally managed by the St John's Wood Business Association and Tropheum has undertaken the organisation of the lights each year for the last three years. The Christmas Lights are an essential element of the festive experience of St John's Wood High Street. The aim of this project is to reposition the High Street as the premier retail and leisure destination in North London. Given the difficulties facing the retail industry at the moment the lights provide a much needed boost to the High Street helping to maintain the strongest sales period of the year.

Tropheum has partnered with Field and Lawn who are well known Christmas Lights organisers with a track record in central London. Previous work includes Crown Estate, Shaftesbury Group, Albemarle Street and St John's Wood High Street. As with previous years in St John's Wood they will undertake all due diligence and installation works along with delivering permits. They have a track record of working in Westminster on budget and on time.

The location of the lights is proposed from St John's Wood High Street, starting at the intersection with Wellington Place and ending at the junction of Circus Road – which is the same position as last year. At the family trust's own cost Tropheum has partnered with Sister and Luchford publicity agencies to publicise and market the Christmas Lights along with the High Street with the goal to drive footfall and increase sales for businesses. They will be showcasing the Christmas Lights and associated events on all relevant media channels including social and traditional media as well as Council communications. Tropheum are also liaising with local amenity groups for example St John's Wood Business Association and the St John's Wood Association in aiding to promote the lights.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 Expenditure and approvals in process from the Abbey Road budget to date total £145,003.81 leaving **£38,996.19** to be allocated.
- 3.2 The proposals for expenditure in this report amount to **£5,220.00** and leaves **£33,776.19** available for future allocation.
- 3.3 Expenditure and approvals in process from the Regent's Park budget to date total £125,649.18 leaving **£58,350.82** to be allocated.
- 3.4 The proposals for expenditure in this report amount to **£5,220.00** and leaves **£53,130.82** available for future allocation.
- 3.5 This report approves the release of the above funding from the ward budget(s) as listed above. The individual decisions taken on the projects being funded are made by the ward members for the ward(s) involved.

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 Section 1 of the Localism Act, aka “the general power of competence” enables authorities “to do anything that individuals generally may do”. The proposals within this report are consistent with the Council exercising this power.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 The proposals have been approved by all Councillors, or a majority of Councillors from all wards involved
- 5.2 The proposal for St John's Wood High Street Christmas Lights 2021 has been drawn up by the Councillor and Governance Support Officer with Trophaeum Asset Management, the financial and legal aspects of the funding have been verified by the Council's Finance and Legal Services Departments.

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| <p>If you have any queries about this report or wish to inspect one of the background papers please contact Clare O'Keefe on 07811 721748, email cokeefe@westminster.gov.uk</p> |
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For completion by the Cabinet Member for Communities and Regeneration

Declaration of Interest

- I have no interest to declare in respect of this report

Signed Date
Councillor Heather Acton, Cabinet Member for Communities and Regeneration

- I have to declare an interest

State nature of interest:

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Signed Date
Councillor Heather Acton, Cabinet Member for Cabinet Member for Communities and Regeneration

(N.B: If you have an interest you should seek advice as to whether it is appropriate to make a decision in relation to this matter.)

For the reasons set out above, I agree the recommendation(s) in the report entitled **Approval of Expenditure from the Ward Budget of Abbey Road and Regent's Park** and reject any alternative options which are referred to but not recommended.

Signed
Councillor Heather Acton, Cabinet Member for Cabinet Member for Communities and Regeneration

Date

For Ward Specific Reports Only

In reaching this decision I have given due regard to any representations made by relevant Ward Members.

Signed
Councillor Heather Acton, Cabinet Member for Cabinet Member for Communities and Regeneration

Date

If you have any additional comment which you would want actioned in connection with your decision you should discuss this with the report author and then set out your comment below before the report and this pro-forma is returned to the Secretariat for processing.

Additional comment:

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NOTE: If you do not wish to approve the recommendations, or wish to make an alternative decision, it is important that you consult the report author, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services, the Director of Finance and Performance and, if there are staffing implications, the Director of Resources (or their representatives) so that (1) you can be made aware of any further relevant considerations that you should take into account before making the decision and (2) your reasons for the decision can be properly identified and recorded, as required by law.

Note to Cabinet Member: Your decision will now be published and copied to the Members of the relevant Policy & Scrutiny Committee. If the decision falls within the criteria for call-in, it will not be implemented until five working days have elapsed for any call-in request to be received.