

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON TOWN COUNCIL

Community, Wellbeing and Place Committee

4 August 2026

Town Clerk's Open Report

1. Christmas Light Switch-on Event

- **To consider the request for an increased financial contribution towards the 2026 Christmas Light Switch-On Event**

Purpose of Report

To update Members on the request from Stratford BID for an increased financial contribution towards the 2026 Christmas Light Switch-On Event.

Background

At the previous meeting, Members received a verbal update regarding a request from Stratford BID for additional funding to support the forthcoming Christmas Light Switch-On Event.

The Town Council currently contributes £5,000 towards the event. This contribution is separate from the Council's funding for the Christmas lights themselves and is primarily used to meet the costs associated with the statutory road closures and security required for the closure of Bridge Street to facilitate the Christmas market element of the event, which the Town Council is contracted to deliver.

Stratford BID has advised that the overall cost of delivering the event has increased due to changes to the event footprint and the additional measures required to ensure the event meets current safety and security standards.

Presentation to Committee

Mr Aaron Corsi of Stratford BID will attend the meeting to provide Members with further information on the revised event arrangements and to explain what the requested additional funding would cover.

Financial

Members are also reminded that, at the recent Council meeting, the Council agreed that Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding should be used, for the time being, to meet the costs associated with Hostile Vehicle Mitigation (HVM) measures.

Options

To approve the funding request, suggest an alternative or decline any additional funding.

2. Youth Town Council

- **To consider a proposal to re-establish a Youth Town Council**

Purpose of Report

For Members to consider a proposal to re-establish the Stratford-upon-Avon Youth Town Council and to seek agreement on the next steps.

Background

The Town Clerk has been approached by Councillors Cleeve and Hunter to consider re-establishing the Youth Town Council, which ceased to operate during 2023/24.

A Youth Town Council provides an opportunity for young people to become actively involved in local democracy, represent the views of their peers, and develop an understanding of civic leadership and community engagement. It also offers the Town Council a valuable means of engaging with younger residents and ensuring their voices are reflected in matters affecting the town.

Options

To agree to establish a small Working Group to consider how best to re-establish the Youth Town Council, including its membership, governance, links with local schools and youth organisations, and the resources required to support its operation, with a view to bringing forward proposals for the Council's consideration

Town Clerk and Chief Officer