

To receive a report on Town Council bunting and consider any actions and associated expenditure.

Overview

Last year 1000m of bunting was purchased for Fore Street into lower Fore Street, Victoria Gardens and the Waterside, due to the condition of the previous bunting.

This bunting was removed during the Christmas lights implementation and disposed of due to its condition.

The below options are available for members' consideration for the year 2024-25.

	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4
Description	Polyester Fabric Bunting 14m per pack	Cotton bunting 25m per pack	Nylon fabric bunting 200m per pack	Community fabric bunting
Link to view	Click here to view	Click here to view	Click here to view	As in previous year & fits with strategic priorities
Cost – 1000m	£626.40	£2,700	£87.45	FOC

To install the bunting a cherry picker is also required for Fore Street, this can be obtained at a cost of £350 per day for hire. For last year's installation a two-day hire was required.

A license to work within the highway limits will need to be obtained, the current cost for a license is £97. Appropriate in-house risk assessments must be in place.

Further to the above, members are also asked to consider the information received as part of the catenary wire report received at the Services Committee meeting held 24/08/2023, it stated catenary wires are installed to support the weight of festoon lighting and without the Method of Inspection or Quality Level of Inspection Certificate it is unknown if the load of the bunting is supported.

A visual inspection has been completed since this report, the appointed contractor confirmed:

That it is up to the individual Council's what they wish to put up on their catenary wires and many Councils do erect bunting without further checks. However, it would not be covered under any insurance or the Town Council's certification warranty received.

The contractor did speak of an incident recently in which bunting was erected above the highways and it was not installed tautly enough. A combine harvester caught the bunting and pulled one of the anchor bolts from its fixture. This was not covered under any insurance as the bunting was not permitted to be installed on the catenary wires / anchor bolts.

It would be at the Town Council's own risk should we wish to install bunting. Cotton bunting is heavier than Nylon, therefore poses more risk to the catenary wires condition and weight load.

Next Steps

For the installation of bunting for the year 2024-25 Members are asked to consider:

1. The specialist advise regarding the catenary wires and weight load;
2. If they wish to purchase and install bunting, if so, which option 1 to 4;
3. Working with the community and organisations to make the bunting, this has been achieved in previous years and fits nicely with the Services Strategic Priorities but does have a negative impact and potential risk due to the catenary wire weight load and lack of insurance;
4. Hiring a cherry picker for two days at a cost of £700 to install the bunting, SDD to assist;
5. Approving a license to work within highway at a cost of £97;
6. Allocating associated costs to budget code 6519 flags and bunting current available budget £1,036 for the year 2023-24 and £2,954 for the year 2024-25;
7. Pending the preferred option, Members are also asked to consider recommending a virement from budget code 6531 Public toilet commercial cleaning to 6519 flags and bunting;
8. The Town Council Environmental Policy.

End of Report
Assistant Town Clerk