



Committee	Assets & Services
Month	May 2024
Report Title	Artificial Christmas Tree 2024-2028 inclusive
Report Author	Terry Frostick Operations Manager
Attachments	None

Agenda item: 6

Background Summary

As part of the Council's environmental policy the idea of an artificial Christmas tree for the Market Square has been raised and the following points are noted.

Artificial tree for contract period 2024-2028 inclusive

- Artificial trees are 100% recyclable.
- The lights that are in stock from the real tree to are used to dress the tree and these remain on the tree.
- The green pine will last beyond your contract and so should the lights.
- During the contract there might be minor refurbishments required.
- Lights checked whilst still on tree, requiring just two plug-ins, lights remain in tree for the next year.
- Tree to be taken to site on the same van as the rest of your displays (one vehicle for install and one vehicle for removal).
- No Annual price increases.
- Potential complaints about its not a real tree

Real tree, annually: - until 2028

- Real live tree of some 25 years old cut down and vehicle required to assist in moving it in forest tree then packed to site.
- Very large lorry with Hiab required to take it from Elveden Suffolk to Saffron Walden.
- Town Council staff on duty at unsocial hours to oversee erection.
- Another Lorry with Hiab to deliver concrete base.
- Labour and cherry picker required to install & remove lights each year.
- Lights strings stored and individually checked in our warehouse.
- Town Council staff to remove tree and dispose of plus cost of disposal £150.
- Lorry with Hiab to remove concrete base.
- Annual index price increases on cost of tree. (Cost of tree as at Dec 2023 =£3000)
- Potential complaints about rising cost and waste of real tree each year.

Recommendation.

To agree to move to an artificial tree for the remainder of the contract period 2024-2028 inclusive and to note that this will be absorbed into the current contract price.

