

(CCC) Spend

1) The budget allocated by the council for Christmas decorations (such as lights, baubles, Christmas trees) for this year (2022)?

1a) If possible, could these please be itemised. So a total cost for each Christmas tree and its location? All lights, all baubles and the amount of each and the cost if possible?

2) The figures detailing the amount of money spent on Christmas decorations (such as lights, baubles, Christmas trees) per year for the years 2016 to 2020?

2a) If possible, could these please be itemised. So a total cost for each Christmas tree and its location? All lights, all baubles and the amount of each and the cost if possible?

3) The total budget allocated in 2022 for festivities, including Christmas, Diwali, Bonfire Night and any other events that you would deem to fall into this category?

3a) Could all events be given a total - e.g. Christmas = £XX, Diwali = £XX etc?

4) The figures detailing the amount of money spent on festivities, including Christmas, Diwali, Bonfire Night and any other events that you would deem to fall into this category per year for the years 2016 to 2021?

4a) Could all events be given a total - e.g. Christmas = £XX, Diwali = £XX etc?

Could you please present the data in the following format:

Item	Number of Items	2016	2017	2018
Baubles	1,000.00	£1,000	£1,000	£1,000
Christmas Lights	20000	£1,000	£1,000	£1,000
Christmas tree (XX location)	1	£400	£400	£400
Christmas tree (XX location)	1	£400	£400	£400

Christmas	1	£15,000	£15,000	£15,000
Diwali	1	£15,000	£15,000	£15,000
Bonfire Night	1	£15,000	£15,000	£15,000

Response

Question 1: This Local Authority has not budgeted for any expenditure connected with Christmas lights and decorations in respect of Christmas 2022. The festive lighting provision in the city is paid for by the Cambridge Business Improvement District (BID). Their details can be found here [Cambridge BID](#)

Question 2: As explained in our response to question 1, the main Christmas lighting is organised and paid for by the Cambridge BID. However, the Council incurred a small amount of expenditure in some of the previous years within the scope of your request in relation to Christmas trees and Christmas lights located outside the city centre. This formed part of the Council's work with

FOI Ref

11679

Response sent

21 Oct 2022

neighbourhoods across the city. Details are as follows:

Year Total Spend Lights Trees Decorations

2016 £Nil £Nil £Nil £Nil

2017 £86.25 £86.25 £Nil £Nil

2018 £585 £Nil £585 £Nil

2019 £Nil £Nil £Nil £Nil

2020 £370 £Nil £370 £Nil

2021 £2,293.58 £567.58 £1,726 £Nil

Amounts quoted above are net of contributions received from community groups covering the costs of trees purchased by the City Council on behalf of community groups.

Question 3: No specific budget has been allocated for the events referred to in your email. With reference to Christmas please see the response in respect of Question 1. Regarding other events which fall within the scope of your request, please note the Council does not allocate budgets to specific events. So far as is possible, income is generated from sponsorship, trade concessions and other income-generating activities to cover the cost of staging the event.

Question 4: Prior to 2019 the events which fall within the scope of your enquiry were organised by Cambridge Live, a charity contracted by the Council to deliver a range of events. Therefore, the Council did not incur costs specific to the staging of individual events. This arrangement came to an end in 2019. Since 2019 the only event organised which falls within the scope of your enquiry is Bonfire Night in 2019. This was staged at a net cost to the Council of £3,570. This comprised expenditure of £33,967 and income of £30,397. Due to the Covid 19 pandemic no events within the scope of your request were staged in either the 2020 or 2021 calendar years.

We aim to provide a high-quality service to you and hope that you are satisfied with this response. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Further queries on this matter should be directed to foi@cambridge.gov.uk