

<b>NOTICE OF MOTION</b>	<b>Date of Council Meeting: 22/04/26</b>
	<b>Mover:</b> Councillor Adam Carter
	<b>Seconder:</b> Councillor Charlotte Carter
	<b>Title of Motion:</b> Lighting Columns - Cut unnecessary red tape so that our streets can have floral displays, Christmas decorations, poppies, and CCTV

**This Council notes that:**

- The use of hanging baskets, seasonal displays of poppies around Remembrance Sunday, festive decorations, and community-installed features contributes significantly to civic pride, local identity, and the visual appeal of Rotherham's towns and villages.
- Such initiatives are often supported and delivered in partnership with parish councils, community groups, and volunteers, demonstrating strong local engagement and ownership.
- The installation of CCTV and associated infrastructure on street lighting columns plays an important role in promoting public safety and deterring crime.
- Street lighting columns provide a practical and efficient means of hosting these enhancements throughout the year.

**This Council further notes that:**

- Current requirements for structural assessments of street lighting columns, including the associated costs, are increasingly being passed on to external organisations such as parish councils and community groups.
- These costs and administrative burdens risk discouraging or preventing local initiatives, placing valued community-led enhancements under threat.
- Smaller parish councils and voluntary groups may lack the financial capacity to meet these requirements, leading to inequality in the ability of communities to participate.

**That this Council believes that:**

- The benefits of these installations to community wellbeing, safety, and local pride outweigh the current bureaucratic and financial barriers.

- A more proportionate and supportive approach is needed to ensure that community groups are not disincentivised from contributing to the borough's environment.
- Residents of Rotherham want Rotherham Council to be facilitating these displays wherever possible.

**Therefore, this Council resolves to:**

1. Request that the Cabinet review the current policy regarding structural assessments for attachments to street lighting columns, with particular regard to:
  - The financial burden placed on parish councils and community organisations;
  - Opportunities for the Council to provide support, guidance, or funding assistance;
  - The development of a proportionate, risk-based approach to assessments.
2. Request that the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board consider adding this issue to its future work programme, in order to:
  - Examine the impact of current policies on community participation;
  - Explore best practice from other local authorities;
  - Make recommendations to ensure a fair, sustainable, and enabling framework.
3. Reaffirm its support for community-led initiatives that enhance the borough's streetscape, improve safety, and foster civic pride.