

LOWER CENTRAL GARDENS TRUST BOARD



Report subject	Lower Central Gardens Trust Board Meeting January 2025
Meeting date	27 January 2025
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	<p>The report provides service update information to the Lower Central Gardens Trust Board to demonstrate the Council commitment to maintain the public gardens known as "The Lower Central Gardens" in Bournemouth for the recreation and enjoyment of the public in accordance with the terms of the Charity Scheme made by the Charity Commission on the 13 May 2011.</p> <p>Items include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Christmas event proposals for 2025 - 2030 - Art & Makers market update
Recommendations	<p>It is RECOMMENDED that:</p> <p>a) Trustees support the following:</p> <p>(i) the draft plans for the Christmas offer for 2025 - 2030 ahead of pre planning submission.</p> <p>(ii) the proposal for the operation of the Art & Makers market for 2025.</p>
Reason for recommendations	To allow the smooth running of the gardens, continued public enjoyment of garden events and for time sensitive matters to be dealt with by officers.

Portfolio Holder(s):	<p>Councillor Andy Hadley - Climate Response, Environment & Energy</p> <p>Councillor Richard Herrett - Destination, Leisure & Commercial Operations</p>
Corporate Director	Glynn Barton – Chief Operations Officer
Report Authors	Amanda Barrie - Director of Commercial Operations

	Kate Langdown - Director of Environment Helen Wildman – Head of Leisure & Events
Wards	Not applicable
Classification	For Recommendation

Background

1. The Lower & Central Gardens Trust (LCGT) was created in 1873 under an Indenture (legal agreement) between BCP Council's predecessor body the Bournemouth Commissioners and Sir George Eliot Meyrick Tapps Gervis. The day-to-day control and management of the Lower Central Gardens and hence the charity, was varied by s.29 Bournemouth Borough Council Act 1985. This vested in the Council the general power to use, control and manage the Lower Central Gardens.
2. The object of the charity is the provision of open space, and public building for the purpose of recreation and enjoyment of the public.

Christmas Tree Wonderland 2024

3. Christmas Tree Wonderland was well attended in 2024 and the derig of the installations is due to be completed ahead of schedule by Friday 17 January.
4. A site inspection for the grass reinstatement will take place onsite between the contractor, Events team and Parks team on Friday 17 January with the approach being set out by the council's Parks team. All reinstatement costs will be covered by the ice rink contractor themselves.

Christmas event plans for 2025 - 2030

5. Agreement to go out to tender for a 5 year contract for the ice rink, market and lighting was approved by the LCGT board on 20 March 2024.
6. Following the award of the Christmas tender for 2025 – 2030 to Bournemouth Christmas Company Ltd, the LCGT board are asked to review and comment on the proposed plans for the scheme which include an ice rink and lighting attractions in the Lower Gardens.
7. The operator's proposal for the Lower Gardens includes an ice rink offer, and various new and returning lighting features including some commercial schemes. The same operator will also provide the Christmas market in the Town Centre.
8. The LCGT board are invited to ask any questions on the proposals to the operators within the meeting.
9. It is the intention that pre planning advice will then be sorted ahead of a full planning application for required items for the duration of the contract.
10. The operator will be appointing their own independent contractor to determine the most suitable approach to grass reinstatement for the duration of the contract in conjunction with the council's Parks team prior to pre planning.
11. The associated information related to point 5 and 6 above can be found in appendix 1 (confidential).

Art & Makers market proposal for 2025

12. The Art & Makers market has been a long-standing artist market within the Lower Gardens.
13. The Council put the operation out to tender in 2024 to look for the community to take on the market operation and management going forward.
14. During this time, the council took forward the operation for 2024 with the intention for a new operator to take this on for 2025 onwards.
15. A contract was not awarded and officers are currently discussing options with any interested parties who come forward.
16. In order to maintain the market for 2025, officers recommend continuing to deliver internally the market operations for a one-year period.

Summary of financial implications

17. As part of the Christmas Tree Wonderland proposals, the relevant procurement and financial regulations have been followed with support from the relevant internal teams.
18. Following the removal of the council revenue budget for Christmas Tree Wonderland, this contract allows for a destination event to continue in Bournemouth at no cost to the council.
19. In relation to the Art & Makers market proposals, the relevant procurement and financial regulations have been followed with support from the relevant internal teams.

Summary of legal implications

20. As part of the Christmas plans, the relevant legal regulations and agreements have been put in place.
21. As part of the Arts & Makers market, the relevant legal regulations will be followed.
22. It should be noted that the Lower Central Gardens Trust must at all times make decisions in accordance with the promotion of the objectives of the charity as registered with the Charity Commission.

Summary of human resources implications

23. There are no direct human resources implications from this report.

Summary of sustainability impact

24. The land contained within the Trust continues to be managed in a way that seeks to protect its future and move to more sustainable planting to improve biodiversity and growing impacts of climate change.
25. A grass reinstatement plan forms part of the contract for Christmas.

Summary of public health implications

26. Access to good-quality, well-maintained public spaces can help to improve physical and mental health by encouraging individuals to walk more, to play sport, or simply to enjoy a green and natural environment. Parks create important opportunities for social integration and health and wellbeing outcomes. Lower Central Gardens positively contributes towards this outcome.

Summary of equality implications

27. There are no negative equalities impacts from the activities in this report.

Summary of risk assessment

28. Health & Safety – risk assessments for the Christmas operation will be provided by the operator and contract manager by officers.
29. Timeline – consideration to the timeframe for approach and future agreement for the Art & Makers market to enable a community run event will be managed by officers.

Background papers

[Minutes Template](#) – Minutes of the LCGT Board March 2024

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Christmas proposals (confidential)