

<b>Sheppey Area Committee</b>	
<b>Meeting Date</b>	20 <sup>th</sup> February 2024
<b>Report Title</b>	Sheerness Clock Tower - illumination scheduling
<b>EMT Lead</b>	Emma Wiggins Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods
<b>Head of Service</b>	Joanne Johnson Head of Regeneration, Economic Development and Property and Interim Head of Planning
<b>Recommendations</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To agree to determine the updated schedule of illumination of the Sheerness Clock Tower.</li> <li>2. To agree to take on decision-making and operational responsibility for any future discretionary changes to the illumination scheduling.</li> </ol>

## 1 Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

- 1.1. This report sets out the need to reprogramme the schedule of uplighting for Sheerness Clock Tower following the passing of Queen Elizabeth II and makes recommendations for any further changes.

## 2 Background

- 2.1. Sheerness Clock Tower was fully restored between 2021 and 2022, following the commitment of funds from Swale Borough Council's (SBC) High Streets Fund.
- 2.2. As part of these works, a coloured illumination schedule was introduced for the uplighters. Following internal SBC research and consideration, the schedule was set as per the attached Appendix I. Illumination takes place from half an hour before dusk through until midnight.
- 2.3. Reprogramming the uplighter schedule requires input from the installation contractor, either via on-site attendance, or via remote programming support (with an officer on-site to upload changes).
- 2.4. Given that this incurs costs, it was foreseen that the schedule would not be changed.
- 2.5. Following the passing of the Queen Elizabeth II, the illumination will, however, need to be reprogrammed to no longer mark her official birthday and instead to mark King Charles' birthday. This presents the opportunity to review whether other changes to the scheduling would be welcome.
- 2.6. This reprogramming will be funded by SBC.

### 3 Proposal

- 3.1. Sheppey Area Committee is invited to discuss and agree the updated static schedule of illumination of the Sheerness Clock Tower.
- 3.2. These changes will need to be agreed in good time to align with the removal of the scheduling of the late Queen’s birthday illumination, and for the King’s birthday illumination to be programmed – i.e. latter part of May at the latest.
- 3.3. Sheppey Area Committee is invited to take on responsibility for agreeing and implementing any future discretionary changes to the illumination schedule (noting that this will come at a cost).

### 4 Alternative Options

- 4.1 The illumination could be switched off, either now or if any of the future uplighting schedule becomes obsolete. This is not recommended, as this is a welcome feature of the refurbished Clock Tower.
- 4.2 Reprogramming could potentially be undertaken independent of the installer’s support. This is not recommended, as this is a technical exercise, with potential reputational ramifications if the schedule is not delivered correctly. There is no identified in-house expertise within SBC to undertake the work.
- 4.3 Agreement could be reached not to change the illumination schedule at any point other than when necessitated by external circumstance.

### 5 Consultation Undertaken

- 5.1 The initial uplighting schedule was determined following internal SBC consideration, and review of the lighting schedule of comparator landmarks across the county.
- 5.2 These proposals have been considered by members of the administration.

### 6 Implications

Issue	Implications
Corporate Plan	The proposal supports renewing local democracy and making the Council fit for the future by siting decision-making at the local level.
Financial, Resource and Property	Swale Borough Council will fund the immediate changes and future changes necessitated by external circumstance.  All changes incur a cost. 2023 estimates from the installation contractor are between £250 and £500 +VAT for remote

	support (dependent on the quantum of changes), and £856+VAT for a site visit.
Legal, Statutory and Procurement	None identified at this stage.
Crime and Disorder	None identified at this stage.
Environment and Climate/Ecological Emergency	None identified at this stage.
Health and Wellbeing	The illumination of a cherished landmark and the commemoration of significant dates in the country or local area's calendar are likely to have local wellbeing benefits. .
Safeguarding of Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults	None identified at this stage.
Risk Management and Health and Safety	None identified at this stage.
Equality and Diversity	None identified at this stage.
Privacy and Data Protection	None identified at this stage.

## **7 Appendices**

7.1 Appendix I – Current Sheerness Clock Tower illumination schedule.

## **8 Background Papers**

None.

## Appendix I – Current Sheerness Clock Tower illumination schedule

<b>Date</b>	<b>Occasion</b>	<b>Colour</b>
Throughout the year	None, regular colour	White
04-Feb	World Cancer Day	Purple
01-Mar	St. David's Day	Red
17-Mar	St. Patricks Day	Green
23-Apr	St. George's Day*	White
2-5 June	The Queen's Platinum Jubilee	Purple
07-Jun	British Heart Foundation	Red
11-Jun	Queen's Birthday**	Purple
22-Jun	Day of Reflection	Yellow
25-Jun	Armed Forces Day	Green
01-Oct	Breast Cancer Awareness	Pink
10-Oct	World Mental Health Day	Green
31-Oct	Halloween	Orange
05-Nov	Guy Fawkes	Multicoloured
11-Nov	Remembrance Sunday	Red
25-Nov	White Ribbon Day	White
30-Nov	St. Andrew's Day	Blue
01-Dec	World Aids Day	Red
24 & 25/12/2022	Christmas	Red
31-Dec	New Year's Eve	Multicoloured

\* Proposed to be replaced with red illumination, to stand out from the usual colour

\*\* To be replaced with the King's Birthday.