

**FESTIVE LIGHTING**

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**1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 Festive lighting has been installed in our towns and villages for several years. Whilst there is no supporting statistics that confirm the level of economic activity festive lights bring, there is anecdotal evidence to confirm that our area benefits from lighting through switch on events, extended shop opening hours and associated charity events.
- 1.2 The range and type of features provided include lamp post mounted units (including trunk road lamp posts), features which stretch across carriageways and are mounted on buildings and/or columns and lamp posts, dressing of existing trees with lighting and the installation of Christmas trees which are also dressed with lights.
- 1.3 The recent locations where features have been displayed have evolved over time. Within this report, the locations are listed together with a summary of the number and type of features.
- 1.4 Our large towns have “switch on” events where staff have historically been involved in managing traffic and overseeing the switch on.
- 1.5 Community involvement has been positive historically with volunteers providing help and organising committees providing community support. Some communities have also been able to provide financial support as have Business Initiative Districts (BIDs).
- 1.6 The Council at its budget meeting on 11 February 2016 made financial provision of £300,000 to be used to phase out Council funding over the next 3 years. Through this report it is suggested that the Council actively seeks to use the three year period, where budget has been allocated, to transfer the provision of festive lighting from the Council to the community, with the council supporting this transition.
- 1.7 Communities are able to access funding through grants, community trusts, windfarm community funds etc. which are unavailable to the council.
- 1.8 It is recommended that the Committee:
  - notes the contents of this report

- agrees that active community engagement is progressed to transfer festive lighting from the council to the community by no later than 2018/19

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**2.0 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 This report summarises the type and number of features in our towns and villages together with the typical annual costs of carrying out repairs, testing, erecting and removal.
- 2.2 This report also proposes that for 2016/17 the Council continues to provide festive lighting with a maximum contribution of £100,000. During 2016/17 discussions will commence with community groups with a view to community groups becoming financially self-sufficient by 2019 for all works associated with festive lighting.

**3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Committee
- notes the contents of this report
  - agrees that active community engagement is progressed to transfer festive lighting from the council to the community by no later than 2018/19

**4.0 DETAILS**

- 4.1 The Council currently provides festive lighting 22 towns and villages across Argyll and Bute, summarised in the Table 1 below. Appendix 1 details through a series of maps the approximate locations of features.

Table 1

Area	Location	No. of lamp/building mounted feature	No. of cross carriageway features	No. of permanent trees dress	No. of Christmas trees provided and dressed	Annual cost for maintenance, testing, erection and removal	Percentage of lighting stock Council owned	Percentage of lighting stock community owned
Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands	Lochgilphead	45	0	3	2	£8042.00	90%	10%
	Tarbert	13	0	3	1	£2804.90	90%	10%
	Campbeltown	27	12	4	1	£17,847.60	0%	100%
	Inveraray	21	0	0	1	£2109.80	0%	100%
	Ardrishaig	7	0	1	1	£1744.80	0%	100%
	Jura	7	0	0	0	£541.80	0%	100%
	Bowmore	22	0	0	0	£541.80	0%	100%
	Furnace	0	0	0	1	£1083.60	100%	0%
	Kilmartin	0	0	0	*1 *community	£0.00	0%	100%
Oban, Lorn and the Isles	Oban	34	4	1	3	£13,870.20	50%	50%
	Tobermory	15	0	0	1	£1398.30	0%	100%

<b>Bute and Cowal</b>	<b>Dunoon</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>£22,609.20</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>0%</b>
	<b>Rothsay</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>£11,649.30</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>0%</b>
	<b>Sandbank</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>£1083.60</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>100%</b>
	<b>Innellan</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>£1083.60</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Helensburgh and Lomond</b>	<b>Helensburgh</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>£5340.00</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>100%</b>
	<b>Rhu</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>£1083.60</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>0%</b>
	<b>Garelochhead</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>£1083.60</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>0%</b>
	<b>Arrochar</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>£541.80</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>100%</b>
	<b>Rosneath</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>£1083.60</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>0%</b>
	<b>Cardross</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>£541.80</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>0%</b>
	<b>Kilcreggan</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>£541.80</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>0%</b>

- 4.2 Many of the other areas have festive lighting installed, commissioned and removed by council staff. Historically these works have been carried out in part in overtime. In line with recent service choices policy decisions there is a reduction in overtime across the Council area and proposals are being progressed to reduce overtime associated with festive lighting. In Mull, Islay and Jura, local contractors are utilised to deliver part of the festive lighting work.

#### Proposals for 2016/17 – 2018/19

- 4.3 It is proposed that for 2016/17 that a similar number of features are erected and maintained to that of last season. In line with policy decision already made through service choices an alternative, more cost effective delivery model will be explored and implemented. 2017/18 and 2018/19 will be transitional years where communities wishing to continue with festive lighting will be supported to develop their individual plans for delivery from 2019/20 and beyond. It is recommended that officers commence engagement with community groups during this financial year (2016/17) with a view to community groups taking over the provision of festive lighting either prior to or no later than 2019/20/.

#### Future Proposals Beyond 2019/20

- 4.4 Beyond 2019/20 council staff will be able to support further festive lighting but their services will be provided on a chargeable basis. Community groups are able to access funding unavailable to the council. This approach will enable community groups to deliver bespoke packages to their areas and will devolve delivery direct to communities.

### **5.0 CONCLUSION**

- 5.1 This report provides a summary of how and where festive lighting features are delivered across the Council area.
- 5.2 It is recommended that the Committee
- notes the contents of this report
  - agrees that active community engagement is progressed to transfer festive lighting from the council to the community by no later than 2018/19

### **6.0 IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 Policy
- A policy decision was made by Council at its Budget meeting in February this year. This report deals with the implementation of that policy decision.

6.2	Financial	There is budget provision of £300k available for 20216/17 – 2018/19. There is no GAE allocated for festive lighting.
6.3	Legal	None known
6.4	HR	None known
6.5	Equalities	None known
6.6	Risk	None known
6.7	Customer Services	None known

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## **APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 – Plans detailing location and type of festive features