

**FESTIVE LIGHTING UPDATE**

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**1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The project to transition festive lighting delivery to communities across the Council area has continued over the course of this year (2018) following initial engagement with communities last year (2017)
- 1.2 At this stage the picture is mixed, with some towns and villages having taken festive lighting on; some towns/villages about to do so; and others where discussions and efforts to build capacity continue.
- 1.3 The vast majority of feedback has been positive to date, however, with each situation being slightly different from the last in terms of the historic provision; as well as the mix of skills, funding and capacity available to communities, this is a complex piece of work.
- 1.4 It is expected that some applications to the earmarked funds previously reported to EDI in June will come forward to area committees in early course. The expected breakdown of community-led and Council-led delivery is in the table at 4.5.
- 1.5 2018 is the last year that the Council will be able to support communities in the delivery of festive lighting, although capacity will remain into the early part of 2019 to support any outstanding transition arrangements

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Members are asked to:

- Consider the contents of this report

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### 2.0 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The Council at its budget meeting in February 2016 agreed to look at alternative, community-led delivery methods for festive lighting prior to the Council ceasing to provide this service after Christmas 2018. Officers have been engaging over the past 18 months with groups in 21 towns and villages across the Council area. This report provides an update on that work

### 3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are asked to:

- 3.1 Consider the contents of this report

### 4.0 DETAIL

- 4.1 As previously reported to EDI in June, the funding is in place to allow the Council to deliver festive lighting across Argyll and Bute this year (2018).
- 4.2 It is likely that the delivery mechanisms will be via a mix of Council (as per the commitment at the 2016 budget), and community, by means of funding provided to community groups from the overall earmarking which was previously set aside.
- 4.3 Of the 21 towns and villages where the Council has historically supported festive events, Innellan and Sandbank have established community delivery vehicles, and Helensburgh and Tobermory, having taken on the responsibility in 2017 with the aid of grant funding from the Council, and have committed to doing the same going forward.
- 4.4 Discussions continue with a range of groups across the area and it is envisaged that a number of grant applications will come forward to area committees in early course to allow communities to take the lead this year (2018).
- 4.5 The model whereby a community group seeks its own arrangements for the service either via national contractors or through local contractors either at cost

or with a mix of paid for and in kind contributions is highly likely to be a more cost effective solution than direct delivery by the Council. This is the model which is being actively promoted in discussions with groups across the area, and indeed is the model currently operating in Helensburgh and Tobermory.

- 4.6 The funding which is currently delegated to area committees can be provided to groups to commission these works, subject to a properly costed proposal to be considered by local area committees, given that the funding is delegated to them
- 4.7 At the time of writing many groups are still in the process of developing a delivery model/coming to a view on their preference
- 4.8 It is predicted that the delivery picture will be as follows, although this is a prediction at this stage based on discussions with groups, so is subject to final confirmation/change:

Area	Town/village	Delivery mechanism	
		Council-led for 2018	Community*
Mid-Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands	Lochgilphead		We are hopeful of securing a community-led solution for Lochgilphead in time for this Christmas <b>(2018)</b> , and have been in positive discussions with the <b>Lochgilphead Christmas Lights Committee</b> to this end. A definitive conclusion is expected by the middle of September.
	Ardrishaig	Council to lead on delivery for 2018	Agreement in principle for community delivery <b>2019</b> onwards via

			the <b>Ardrishaig Community Trust</b>
	Inveraray	Council to lead on delivery for 2018	Agreement in principle for community delivery <b>2019</b> onwards via the <b>Community Council</b> , if not before if a cost effective, risk mitigated local option can be agreed.
	Tarbert	Council led for 2018  Long-term arrangements need to be determined	
	Campbeltown	Council led for 2018  Long-term arrangements need to be determined	
	Furnace	x	Agreement in principle for community delivery <b>2019</b> onwards via the <b>Community Council</b> , if not before if appropriate training can be arranged.
	Jura		Agreement in principle for community delivery <b>2018</b> onwards via

			the informal local <b>Christmas Lights Committee</b>
	Bowmore		Agreement in principle for community delivery <b>2018</b> onwards via the informal local <b>Bowmore Sports Committee</b>
Bute and Cowal	Dunoon	Council led for 2018  Long-term arrangements need to be determined	
	Rothesay	Council led for 2018  Long-term arrangements need to be determined	
	Innellan		Previously established community-delivery method.
	Sandbank		Previously established community-delivery method.
Helensburgh and Lomond	Helensburgh		Delivery in <b>2018</b> and onwards via the <b>Helensburgh Festive Lighting Charitable Trust</b> , with

			2018 funding agreed via H&L Area Committee
	Rosneath	Council to deliver 2018	Agreement in principle for community delivery <b>2019</b> onwards via the <b>Community Council</b>
	Kilcreggan	Council led for 2018  Long-term arrangements need to be determined	
	Garelochhead	Council led for 2018  Long-term arrangements need to be determined	
	Arrochar	Council led for 2018  Long-term arrangements need to be determined	
	Cardross	Council led for 2018  Long-term arrangements need to be determined	
	Rhu	Council led for 2018  Long-term arrangements need to be determined	
Oban, Lorn and the Isles	Oban		Subject to a suitably cost

			effective model being agreed, we expect that that <b>BID4Oban</b> will be able to take the lead on festive lighting this year ( <b>2018</b> ) as well as in future years
	Tobermory		Agreement for <b>Tobermory Christmas Lights Committee</b> to deliver <b>2018</b> and onwards

\*subject to funding requests being approved by area committees

## 5.0 CONCLUSION

5.1 The picture for 2018 is mixed, with some council-led and some expected community-led models. The current position is as expected, and the project remains on track to enable community-led delivery, through a variety of funding mechanisms depending on local circumstances, across the entirety of the Council area from 2019 onwards

## 6.0 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Policy – this project is as a result of the policy position adopted by the Council in February 2016

6.2 Financial – there is an existing earmarked reserve for this purpose and the project remains within that budget

6.3 Legal – none known

6.4 HR – none known

6.5 Equalities/Fairer Scotland Duty – none known

6.6 Risk – none known

6.7 Customer Service – none known

**Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure Pippa Milne  
Policy Lead for Roads and Amenity Services, Cllr Roddy McCuish**

**7<sup>th</sup> August 2018**

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