

OBAN, LORN AND THE ISLES FESTIVE LIGHTING – FUNDING REQUESTS

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 Across Argyll and Bute the Council works with communities to help them enjoy a range of lighting displays over the festive period. There is no statutory requirement nor GAE allocation associated with the provision of this service, which has historically cost around £100,000 each year.
- 1.2 At its budget meeting in February 2016 the Council took the decision to look at alternative, community-led delivery methods. A fund of £300,000 was earmarked from reserves to either support direct Council delivery up to and including 2018, or to support transition arrangements for communities to take on festive lighting themselves.
- 1.3 In 2016 and 2017 the Council delivered the service on the basis of the historic specification in Oban, while discussing long-term options with BID4Oban. BID4Oban have agreed to take festive lighting on in 2018, subject to funding being provided from the earmarked OLI festive fund to cover the costs of their chosen contractor.
- 1.4 The event in Tobermory is community-led via an informal Christmas Lights Committee. The Council has in the past provided support, via in-kind and capital contributions. The OLI Area Committee provided funding to the Tobermory Christmas Lights Committee in 2017 and they have made a subsequent application to the OLI festive fund for 2018.
- 1.5 This report details funding applications from BID4Oban and the Tobermory Christmas Lights Committee. Both these applications are considered to be competent, and in-line with the overall framework for the festive fund, with the result that they are both recommended for approval.

RECOMMENDATION

Members are asked to:

- Approve the funding requests from BID4Oban and the Tobermory Christmas Lights Committee.

ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL

**OBAN, LORN AND THE ISLES AREA
COMMITTEE**

**DEVELOPMENT AND
INFRASTRUCTURE**

9 OCTOBER 2018

OBAN, LORN AND THE ISLES FESTIVE LIGHTING – FUNDING REQUESTS

2.0 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This report details funding requests which have been received from BID4Oban and the Tobermory Christmas Lights Committee for funding to support community-led lighting events in Oban and Tobermory this festive period (2018).

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are asked to:

- 3.1 Approve the funding requests from BID4Oban and the Tobermory Christmas Lights Committee.

4.0 DETAIL

4.1 OBAN

- 4.1.1 The Council has led on delivery of festive lighting in Oban 2016 and 2017 while discussing with BID4Oban potential longer-term arrangements once Council involvement ends after this coming festive period.
- 4.1.2 BID4Oban have agreed to take on the project management/organisation of festive lighting in Oban for 2018 subject to a grant being provided from the OLI festive fund. The grant would be used to commission a suitably competent and qualified contractor to undertake the work of erecting, testing, maintaining and removing the festive lighting features, as well as facilitating the switch-on event.
- 4.1.3 BID4Oban have applied for £9,000, which is considered by officers to be a competent request inasmuch as: the relevant legal and financial paperwork has been submitted; the request is in line with the overall framework for festive funding; they have undertaken a competent procurement process to select a contractor; their chosen contractor is suitably competent and qualified.

4.2 TOBERMORY

- 4.2.1 The Tobermory Christmas Lights Committee has taken the lead on festive

lighting in Tobermory for some years now, with historic in kind and capital contributions from the Council. Their model involves the use of local contractors.

- 4.2.2 Their application is for some £3000, with this funding to be used to cover the costs of maintenance and repair of damaged features, the replacement of some features beyond economic repair, and the erection, maintenance and removal of features.
- 4.2.3 This is also a competent request, and has been through the same checks as mentioned at 4.1.3.

4.3 OLI FESTIVE FUNDING

- 4.3.1 The funding position for Oban, Lorn and the Isles is:

Current balance	Potential remaining balance
26,100	14,100

- 4.3.2 The Environment, Development and Infrastructure (EDI) Committee, at its meeting in March 2018, agreed with the strategy of carrying over any remaining funds into 2019/20:

Any monies which remain in these funds after 31st March 2019 be gifted to any group with whom the council has entered into a signed formal agreement in that particular administrative area pro rata. If there is no formal agreement with a group then the money should carry forward into 2019/20 and be subject to the normal grant application process.

- 4.3.3 EDI also agreed outline heads of terms and a lighting assets disposal strategy at the same meeting. The intention in the OLI area is to review the position into the New Year, with a view to agreeing long-term agreements with BID4Oban and the Tobermory Christmas Lights Committee.
- 4.3.4 A report will be required to go to Council at some point into the New Year on the position with the balance of funds, the strategy to carry-over into future years, and the pro-rata split. Currently it is intended that any remaining funds be split via a weighted scoring matrix based on the number and type of features which make up the historic specification in each town/village.

5.0 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The funding applications before the committee, if approved, will constitute a successful community transition for festive lighting in the OLI area in for 2018.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Policy – this is consistent with the overall festive lighting policy position.
- 6.2 Financial – the funding requests are well within the overall OLI festive

lighting budget.

- 6.3 Legal – the grant agreements/contracts will be subject to normal conditions which will ensure the Council meets its best value obligations.
- 6.4 HR – none known.
- 6.5 Equalities – 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, Councillor Roddy McCuish**

26/9/18

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