
ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL

**MID ARGYLL, KINTYRE AND THE
ISLANDS AREA COMMITTEE**

**DEVELOPMENT AND
INFRASTRUCTURE**

9 OCTOBER 2018

**MID ARGYLL, KINTYRE AND THE ISLANDS 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 MAKI, while discussing long-term options with a range of groups.
- 1.4 This report details funding applications from the Lochgilphead Festive Lights Committee and the Inveraray Community Council. 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 Inveraray Community Council and the Lochgilphead Christmas Lights Committee.

MID-ARGYLL, KINTYRE AND THE ISLANDS FESTIVE LIGHTING – FUNDING REQUESTS

2.0 INTRODUCTION

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

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are asked to:

- 3.1 Approve the funding requests from Inveraray Community Council and the Lochgilphead Christmas Lights Committee.

4.0 DETAIL

4.1 LOCHGILPHEAD

- 4.1.1 The Council has led on delivery of festive lighting in Lochgilphead 2016 and 2017 while discussing with the Lochgilphead Christmas Lights Committee potential longer-term arrangements once Council involvement ends after this coming festive period.
- 4.1.2 Lochgilphead Festive Lights Committee (LFLC) have agreed to take on the project management/organisation of festive lighting in Lochgilphead for 2018 subject to a grant being provided from the MAKI 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 LFLC have applied for £5,000, 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 INVERARAY

- 4.2.1 The Inveraray Community Council wishes to take on festive lighting from the Council in Inveraray.
- 4.2.2 Their application is for some £1650, 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 hire of the necessary vehicle mounted access equipment.
- 4.2.3 This is also a competent request, and has been through the same checks as mentioned at 4.1.3.

4.3 REMAINING AREAS

Town/village	Commentary
Furnace	Agreement in principle for community delivery 2019 onwards via the Community Council, if not before if appropriate training can be arranged.
Jura	Agreement in principle for community delivery 2019 onwards via the informal local Christmas Lights Committee, if not before if the appropriate training can be arranged.
Bowmore	Agreement in principle for community delivery 2019 onwards via the informal local Sports Committee.
Ardrishaig	Agreement in principle for community delivery 2019 onwards via the Ardrishaig Development Company.
Tarbert	Council to deliver this year. Long-term solution yet to be agreed.
Campbeltown	Council to deliver this year. Long-term solution yet to be agreed.

4.4 MAKI FESTIVE FUNDING

- 4.4.1 The funding position for Mid-Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands is:

Current balance	Potential remaining balance for Council to deliver 2018
20,728	14,078

- 4.4.2 The remaining fund should be adequate to allow Council-delivery in 2018, but it is highly unlikely that any significant funds will remain to carry forward.

5.0 CONCLUSION

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