

BUTE AND COWAL FESTIVE LIGHTING – FUNDING REQUEST

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 Dunoon and Rothesay, while discussing long-term options with the PA23BID and groups in Rothesay. The PA23BID have agreed to take festive lighting on in 2018, subject to funding being provided from the earmarked Bute and Cowal festive fund to cover the costs of their chosen contractor.
- 1.4 The event in Rothesay will be delivered this year by the Council on the basis of the historic specification as no agreement has been reached as yet with a community-delivery partner, although discussions continue in the hope of agreeing community-led arrangements for future years. The Council is ceasing to deliver this service after this festive season (2018)
- 1.5 This report details a funding application from the PA23BID. At the time of writing this report, the application is lacking in the financial information that the Council normally requests from groups who apply for funding. The rest of the application is competent, and given the timing and the urgent need for the BID to have funding certainty to allow them to commission their chosen contractor, as well as the commitment from the BID to forward the required information, the application is recommended for approval, subject to the pending financial information being submitted.

RECOMMENDATION

Members are asked to:

- Approve the funding requests from the PA23BID, subject to the submission of

the appropriate financial information

BUTE AND COWAL FESTIVE LIGHTING – FUNDING REQUESTS

2.0 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This report details a funding request which has been received from the PA23BID in respect of festive lighting provision in Dunoon, as well as the arrangements for this year's festive lights event in Rothesay

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are asked to:

- 3.1 Approve the funding requests from the PA23BID, subject to the submission of the appropriate financial information

4.0 DETAIL

4.1 DUNOON

- 4.1.1 The Council has led on delivery of festive lighting in Dunoon 2016 and 2017 while discussing with the PA23BID potential longer-term arrangements once Council involvement ends after this coming festive period.
- 4.1.2 PA23BID have agreed to take on the project management/organisation of festive lighting in Dunoon for 2018 subject to a grant being provided from the B&C 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 PA23BID have applied for £8,000, which is considered by officers to be a competent request inasmuch as: 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.
- 4.1.4 The PA23BID have not as yet submitted the required financial information to support their application but have given an assurance that this will be provided in early course

4.2 ROTHESAY

- 4.2.1 The Council will deliver festive lighting in Rothesay this year as no agreement has been made with a community delivery partner. Discussions continue in the hope of agreeing community-led arrangements for future years. The Council is ceasing to deliver this service after this festive season (2018)

4.3 B&C FESTIVE FUNDING

- 4.3.1 The funding position for Bute and Cowal is:

Current balance	Potential remaining balance if the funding request is granted
24,557	16,557

- 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 B&C area is to review the position into the New Year, with a view to agreeing long-term agreements with the PA23BID and a community delivery partner in Rothesay.
- 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 Dunoon 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 B&C 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**

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For further information contact: Mark Calder on 01546 604756