

## FESTIVE LIGHTING UPDATE

---

### 1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update members on the delivery of festive lighting across Argyll and Bute in 2018, as well as the community handover arrangements now that the Council is ceasing to provide this non-statutory service.
- 1.2 Overall the outlook is very positive, and it is expected that all areas will have a community arrangement in place by the end of this financial year. Each situation is slightly different from the last in terms of the historic provision; as well as the mix of skills, funding and capacity available to communities, with the result that this is a complex piece of work.

### 3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are asked to:

- Note the successful delivery of festive lighting schemes across Argyll and Bute in 2018;
- Endorse the work of community groups to deliver festive lighting in their towns and villages;
- Agree the scoring matrix guide for area committees as set out at 4.2.2;
- Note that the Council has now ceased to provide this service and that the project is on track to deliver full community handovers by the end of this financial year;
- Note that other local authorities have approached the Council for advice and support in their own festive handover initiatives.

## FESTIVE LIGHTING UPDATE

---

### 2.0 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This report provides Members with an update on the delivery of festive lighting across Argyll and Bute in 2018. The overall programme saw a mix of council-led and community-led festive lighting displays.
- 2.2 As per the Budget decision of February 2016, the Council is no longer in a financial position to deliver festive lighting. Community handovers are at various stages, with some complete and some still in progress.

### 3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are asked to:

- 3.1 Note the successful delivery of festive lighting schemes across Argyll and Bute in 2018;
- 3.2 Endorse the work of community groups to deliver festive lighting in their towns and villages;
- 3.3 Agree the scoring matrix guide for area committees as set out at 4.2.2;
- 3.4 Note that the Council has now ceased to provide this service and that the project is on track to deliver full community handovers by the end of this financial year;
- 3.5 Note that other local authorities have approached the Council for advice and support in their own festive handover initiatives.

### 4.0 DETAIL

#### 4.1 DELIVERY OF FESTIVE LIGHTING 2018

- 4.1.1 Festive lighting across Argyll and Bute was delivered as follows:

Town/village	Delivery mechanism		Comments
	Council	Community	
Lochgilphead		Lochgilphead Christmas Lights Committee, using local contractor McLeod Construction	Delivered by the Christmas Committee with the aid of a grant of £5,000 from ABC
Ardrishaig	ABC led, with the switch on subcontracted to McLeod Construction		The local development trust has agreed to take this on in future years
Inveraray		Inveraray Community Council	Delivered by the CC with the aid of a grant of £1,750 from ABC
Tarbert	ABC delivery		In principle agreement for local events group to take this on going forward
Furnace			There was a community-led solution in place at Furnace but unfortunately this fell through at the last minute which meant that the Furnace tree was unlit this year. Steps are being taken to ensure the community arrangement going forward is robust.
Campbeltown	ABC delivery with the aid of local contractor McKinven and Colville.  In utilising a local contractor alongside the Council's street lighting squad, this provided the contractor with the knowledge and experience needed for the job going forward.		There is an established Committee in Campbeltown with which the Council is working closely to ensure a successful handover for 2019.

Bowmore		Delivered via the Bowmore Sports Committee, who utilise an independent local electrician	
Jura		Jura Development Company arrange the event, with the install being done by a local electrician.	The Council's contribution to the community handover was the purchase of a small number of replacement features.
Oban		BID4Oban delivered the switch on event with the help of local contractor Oban Electrical Services	This was aided by a grant of £9,000 from ABC
Tobermory		Tobermory Christmas Lights Committee delivered this event, utilising a mix of local electricians for the install	This was aided by a grant of £3,000 from ABC
Dunoon		Dunoon Presents (PA23 BID) delivered this event via local contractor John Brown (Strone)	The BID received funding of £8,000 from ABC.
Rothesay	ABC delivery		<p>The switch on event itself in Rothesay was cancelled due to adverse weather.</p> <p>No community delivery partner has been identified in Rothesay, however, a number of options are being considered and this will be picked up in detail at the Bute and Cowal Area Committee in its specific festive update paper.</p>

Innellan		Community Council	Previously established community delivery method e.g. pre-2016
Sandbank		Community Council	Previously established community delivery method e.g. pre-2016
Port Bannatyne		Christmas Committee	<p>This is an addition to lists reported previously to members.</p> <p>There is a pre-2016 community event in this area, however, this has been added for the sake of completeness because the Council had historically provided some assistance to this event, with the result that local members might wish to consider allocating some of the remaining funds to this group.</p>
Helensburgh		Community delivery via the Helensburgh Festive Lighting Charitable Trust. The Trust benefit from a qualified electrical engineer, with the result that they did not need an electrical contractor for assistance, rather, they used a local window cleaning company to provide additional labour	The group benefited from a grant of £10,000 from ABC to deliver the event.
Arrochar; Rosneath; Kilcreggan; Garelochhead; Rhu; Cardross	ABC delivery		No firm community arrangement was possible for 2018, however, officers are engaging with the community councils in

			these areas to explore a collective solution.
--	--	--	---

## 4.2 ALLOCATING REMAINING FUNDS

4.2.1 The estimated balances of the remaining festive funds are noted in the table below. The total costs are not fully reconciled in the ledger because timesheets require to be verified and final invoices are awaited from suppliers/sub-contractors. The exact balances will be available after the end of the financial year.

Area	2017/18 spend	2018/19 budget	2018/19 spend (or committed)	Balance
MAKI	31,174	20,728	7,750 grants  Repairs and labour (inc. sub contract) TBC	< 500
OLI	25,802	26,100	13,500 grants (this includes 1,500 payment to Tobermory from previous year)  Repairs TBC	c. 10,000
BC	27,345	24,557	8,000 in grants  Repairs and labour TBC	c. 11,000
HL	21,939	29,963	10,000 in grants  Repairs and labour TBC	c. 15,000

4.2.2 A transparent mechanism should be put in place to show that the allocation of the remaining festive funds is both proportionate and reasonable. Officers have developed a scoring matrix based on the historic specification in each town/village as follows, with a minimum allocation of £500 per town or village. Each area has its own particular dynamics, with the result that the following matrix is proposed for this committee to recommend as a guide to area committees in the disbursement of the festive funding which is delegated to them. It is ultimately for area committees to determine the funding allocations in their areas.

Item	Score
Lamppost or building mounted feature	1
Providing and dressing a tree	2
Cross carriageway feature	3
Dressing an existing tree/lighting existing features	1

4.2.3 Using this scoring matrix against the historic specification in each area gives the following results:

#### **Bute and Cowal**

<b>Town/village</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Funding available</b>
Dunoon	39	6420
Rothesay	14	2,625
Innellan	1 (notional)	652
Sandbank	1 (notional)	652
Port Bannatyne	1 (notional)	652
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>11,000</b>

#### **Helensburgh and Lomond**

<b>Town/village</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Funding available</b>
Helensburgh	121	11,205
Cardross	1	588
Rhu	2	677
Garelochhead	2	677
Kilcreggan	1	588
Rosneath	2	677
Arrochar	1	588
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>15,000</b>

#### **Oban, Lorn and the Isles**

<b>Town/village</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Funding available</b>
Oban	53	7,314
Tobermory	17	2,686
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>10,000</b>

## **5.0 CONCLUSION**

5.1 The project to transition from Council-led to community-led festive lighting across Argyll and Bute is approaching a successful conclusion. Lighting events were delivered successfully across Argyll and Bute in 2018 via a mix of Council and community groups. In those areas where the Council did deliver in 2018 there is an identified group to take festive lighting on in future years. In the case of Rothesay, where there is no identified group, steps are being taken to engage with potential partners.

## **6.0 IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 Policy – none (ref Budget February 2016).

- 6.2 Financial – in agreeing the matrix at 4.2.2, the full earmarking from 2016 will have been committed.
- 6.3 Legal – there is a template agreement for groups to sign up to which make the roles and responsibilities of both parties clear.
- 6.4 HR – none.
- 6.5 Equalities/Fairer Scotland Duty – none.
- 6.6 Risk – there is a risk that in future years community partners may approach the Council to fund their events due to a lack of independent revenue streams or external funding.
- 6.7 Customer Service – none.

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

11/2/19

**For further information contact:** Mark Calder, Project Manager, on 01546 604756