

Festive Lighting Oban Town Centre

1.0 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the proposed Festive Lighting for in and around Oban Town Centre

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that members note this report
- 2.2 It is recommended that delegated approval for the choice of the proposed features is given to the Director of Development and Infrastructure in consultation with the Lead and Vice Lead of the Area Committee.

3.0 DETAIL

- 3.1 Members of the Council have agreed a budget of £100,000 for festive lighting across the Council area as a whole. This covers the installation, testing, switching on and removal of the existing Christmas lighting features; it makes no allowance for renewal or upgrading of those items. Last year, there was significant damage to the features in Oban resulting from the storms experienced in early January. The Members of the Area Committee were given details of the damage sustained and the associated repair costs at their meeting on 8th August 2012.
- 3.2 Following the Meeting on 8th August a meeting took place with our contractor Blachere Illuminations; elected Members and representatives of the Oban Traders Association and BID4Oban also attended this meeting. As a result of this meeting Blachere agreed to submit proposals for new designs for Oban town centre to the street lighting team. This report is expected to be delivered by Friday 14th September; once it is received, the report will be forwarded on to the Members, the Oban Traders Association and BID4Oban via post, for appraisal and final selection.
- 3.3 David Finlayson of Oban Traders Association has advised that £10,000 has been pledged by Oban Common good fund. The estimated cost of the new features is around £20,000. This will be confirmed when the report from Blachere has been received and Members have chosen their preferences.

4.0 CONCLUSION

- 4.1 As the available budget of £100,000 for festive lighting across Argyll and Bute is already committed for the installation, testing, switching on and removal of the features, it is likely that a shortfall of £10,000 will result from the procurement of the new features. Accordingly, it will be necessary to consider carefully the extent of renewal of the features and utilise, where possible, the existing equipment unless funding for this shortfall can be sourced to allow all of the new features to be bought.
- 4.2 In order that the chosen features are available for installation the selection process must be completed and the features must be ordered by the Street Lighting section by 1st October. In order to achieve this, Members will be asked to consider the options proposed by Blachere Illuminations as highlighted above. Officers will then need to review the choices made to ensure that these choices can be delivered within timescale and the budget previously agreed for the provision of Christmas lighting within Oban.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Policy The Christmas lighting will be installed to BS7671 (Requirements for electrical installations - IEE Wiring Regulations) which governs such works.
- 5.2 Financial There is no financial commitment beyond previously agreed budgets unless Members wish to commit to matching the £10,000 pledge of funding from the Oban Common Good Fund, in which case a commitment of £10,000 will be required from alternative budgets to allow the procurement of the extra new features.
- 5.3 Legal - Nil
- 5.4 HR - Nil
- 5.5 Equalities - Nil
- 5.6 Risk - Nil
- 5.7 Customer Service -Nil

6.0 APPENDICES

There are no appendices to this report.

Executive Director of Development & Infrastructure

11th September 2012

For further information contact:

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