

Perth and Kinross Council
Perth Common Good Fund Committee

3 October 2018

Perth Christmas Lights Festival

Report by Executive Director – Housing and Environment (Report No. 18/316)

The report notes the activities for the Christmas Lights event on Saturday 17 November 2018, which is part of the overall Perth Winter Festival programme. It seeks approval for costs to be funded from the Perth Common Good Fund for the event.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Perth Common Good Fund has traditionally supported the costs associated with the Perth Christmas Lights including erection, maintenance, storage, rent, feu duties and electricity charges. In addition, the Common Good Fund has supported the Christmas Lights switch on event which has grown significantly since 2012 in terms of scale, scope and attendance. In 2017, it was estimated that attendance peaked with approximately 45,000 members of the public in Perth City Centre for the Christmas Lights event generating an estimated £1.6 million for the local economy.
- 1.2 At its meeting of 25 April 2018 (Report No.18/142 refers), the Perth Common Good Fund Committee approved the budget for Financial Year 2018/19. This includes a provision of £77,000 for Christmas related activities and events with £40,000 from this allocated for the Christmas Lights Switch On event. This is scheduled for Saturday 17 November 2018 and this report outlines the proposed breakdown of expenditure associated with the event.
- 1.3 In line with the Council's Events and Festival's Strategy, the Perth Winter Festival was developed in 2013/14 as an overarching programme of events and celebrations, which now runs from Perth's Hallowe'en event on the Saturday closest to 31 October until the Riverside Light Nights in February. The objective of the programme is to generate additional economic benefits for the city through increased footfall and expenditure by visitors and residents while also contributing to the vibrancy and cultural life of the city, raising the profile of Perth as a leading events destination in so doing. The winter programme has developed significantly over the past few years but the Christmas Lights event remains as a stand out feature and has established a reputation as a major free public event in the area's annual calendar.
- 1.4 The development of a strong year round events and festivals portfolio is an important feature of our efforts to reinforce the city's and wider area's credentials as a cultural and events tourism destination. An objective of the Winter Festival and in particular the Christmas Lights event is to market a weekend festival for residents and the wider visitor market.

- 1.5 Events and marketing expenditure for the Winter Festival is met from the Housing and Environment service's revenue budget with private sector sponsorship also forthcoming for specific elements.
- 1.6 A report on the development and performance of the 2017/18 Perth Winter Festival was made to the Council's Environment and Infrastructure Committee in March 2018 (Report No. 18/91 refers). The Common Good funding is intended to support specific elements on Saturday 17 November 2018 when the focus is on the Christmas Lights celebrations.

2. PROPOSAL

Christmas Lights Festival

- 2.1 A full programme of events and entertainments is being developed to create a festival weekend in the city. As 2018 is the designated national Year of Young People, it is intended that there will be opportunities for local community groups to participate in street and stage performances including a Young Persons' Stage in King Edward Street for choirs, dance and musical groups. An outline programme for Saturday 17 November is as follows:-
- 2.2 1200 - 1800
Funfair Pleasure Rides
Street Food
Ice Sculpting
Street Art
Street Entertainers
Young Persons' Stage programme (from 1200) on King Edward Street
Main Stage programme (from 1400) on Tay Street
Children's Stage at Horsecross
- 2.3 Artists for the Main Stage and Young Persons' Stage programmes are being sought and the programme schedule is therefore still to be confirmed. The addition of the Community Stage (Young Persons' Stage for 2018) and Children's Stage in recent years has provided a platform for local talent, in particular youth groups from across Perth and Kinross, to perform. It will be important to maintain support for this element of the weekend festival while also programming local support acts for the main stage.
- 2.4 1730
Santa's Parade: from Thimble Row, High Street, Scott Street, South Street to Tay Street. This may be subject to change following consultation with Police Scotland and Roads network management.
- 2.5 1815
Christmas Lights Switch On, special effects lighting and pyrotechnics display on Tay Street.

- 2.6 1830 onwards
Funfair Pleasure Rides
All stage entertainment continues until 2100.

- 2.7 In line with last year, it is proposed that the Perth Common Good Fund contribution supports the following elements of the programme on Saturday, 17 November:

Main stage (lighting, sound, pyrotechnic effects, and related infrastructure)	£20,000
Young Persons' Stage at King Edward Street	£2,000
Santa's Parade and street entertainments	£10,000
Children's stage / family area at Horsecross Plaza	£3,000
Health, safety and welfare (medical cover, stewarding, toilets, waste services and cleansing)	£5,000
Total Costs	£40,000

- 2.8 For the 2018/19 Winter Festival, the impact of the programme of events will be assessed by business surveys along with analysis of visits to the city.

- 2.9 The Committee is asked to:

- i) Confirm the budget provision from 2018/19 in respect of the Christmas Lights Switch On programme for Saturday 17 November, in line with the decision taken in April 2018.

Author

Name	Designation	Contact Details
Alan Graham	Business Development Team Leader	Tel: (01738) 475000 E-mail: TESCommitteeReports@pkc.gov.uk

Approved

Name	Designation	Date
Barbara Renton	Executive Director – Housing and Environment	14 September 2018

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1. IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Strategic Implications	
Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement	Yes
Corporate Plan	Yes
Resource Implications	
Financial	Yes
Workforce	None
Asset Management (land, property, IST)	None
Assessments	
Equality Impact Assessment	Yes
Strategic Environmental Assessment	None
Sustainability (community, economic, environmental)	None
Legal and Governance	None
Risk	None
Consultation	
Internal	Yes
External	None
Communication	
Communications Plan	None

1. Strategic Implications

Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement

- 1.1 The Perth and Kinross Community Planning Partnership (CPP) brings together organisations to plan and deliver services for the people of Perth and Kinross. Together the CPP has developed the Perth and Kinross Community Plan which outlines the key things we think are important for Perth and Kinross.
- i) Giving every child the best start in life
 - ii) Developing educated, responsible and informed citizens
 - iii) Promoting a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy
 - iv) Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives
 - v) Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations
- 1.2 It is considered that the strategy and related actions will contribute to the following objective: Promoting a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy.

Corporate Plan

- 1.3 The Council's Corporate Plan 2013-2018 outlines the same five Objectives as those detailed above in the Community Plan. These objectives provide a clear strategic direction, inform decisions at a corporate and service level and shape resource allocation. It is considered that the actions contained in the report contribute to objective (iii) outlined in paragraph 1.1 above.

2. Resource Implications

Financial

- 2.1 As part of the 2018/19 budget process, the Committee approved a budget allocation of £40,000 towards the Christmas Lights Switch On event. A breakdown of anticipated expenditure is provided in the report.

Workforce

- 2.2 There are no staff resource issues for Perth and Kinross Council.

Asset Management (land, property, IT)

- 2.3 There are no asset management issues.

3. Assessments

Equality Impact Assessment

- 3.1 An Equality Impact Assessment needs to be carried out for functions, policies, procedures or strategies in relation to race, gender and disability and other relevant protected characteristics. This supports the Council's legal requirement to comply with the duty to assess and consult on relevant new and existing policies.
- 3.2 The function, policy, procedure or strategy presented in this report was considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment process (EqIA) with the following outcome:
- (i) Assessed as **relevant** and the following positive outcomes expected following implementation:
 - The needs of equality groups to be addressed in the operational delivery of events in the city centre such as the provision for viewing by disabled visitors, the provision of additional toilet facilities for disabled visitors etc.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 3.3 The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 places a duty on the Council to identify and assess the environmental consequences of its proposals. However, no further action is required as the proposals do not qualify as a PPS as defined by the act and are therefore exempt.

Sustainability

- 3.4 Under the provisions of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 the Council has to discharge its duties in a way which contributes to the achievement of sustainable development. In terms of the Climate Change Act, the Council has a general duty to demonstrate its commitment to sustainability and the community, environmental and economic impacts of its actions.

Legal and Governance

- 3.5 The consideration of the report is in line with the Council's Scheme of Administration.

Risk

- 3.6 Risks and the controls required to mitigate any risks will be reported through the Council's risk management process where the Council is the lead on individual projects.

4. Consultation

Internal

- 4.1 The Head of Planning and Development and Head of Finance have been consulted in the development of the report.

2. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 2.1 None.