

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

Perth Common Good Fund Committee

25 September 2019

Perth Christmas Lights Festival

Report by Executive Director – Housing and Environment (Report No. 19/258)

The report notes the activities for the Christmas Lights event on Saturday, 16 November 2019, is part of the overall Perth Winter Festival programme and seeks funding approval for the development of the event as a part of a weekend festival.

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 over the past few years in terms of scale, scope and attendance. In 2018, it was estimated that there 91,000 visits to the city on the day of the Christmas Lights event.
- 1.2 At its meeting of 27 February 2019 (Report No. 19/55 refers) Perth Common Good Fund Committee approved the budget for financial year 2019/20 which 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 16 November 2019. This report outlines the proposed breakdown of expenditure associated with the event.
- 1.3 The objective of the programme is to generate additional economic benefits for the city through increased visitation and expenditure by visitors and residents, while also contributing to the vibrancy and cultural life of the city and raising the profile of Perth as a leading events destination in so doing. The winter programme has developed significantly over the past few years. The Christmas Lights event remains as a stand out feature and has established a reputation as a major public event in the area's annual calendar.
- 1.4 The development of a strong year round events and festivals portfolio is an important contributor to 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's revenue budget, with private sector sponsorship also forthcoming for specific elements.

- 1.6 The Perth Winter Festival 2018/2019 was the subject of a detailed report to the Council's Environment and Infrastructure Committee on 20 March 2019 (Report No. 19/86 refers).

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. In addition to the activities and events for Saturday 16 November, the "Perthshire Feast" is being programmed for the following day and which will comprise a series of food related activities and events as well as musical performances. As with previous years, it is intended that there will be opportunities for local community groups to participate in street and stage performances including a Community Stage in King Edward Street for choirs, dance and musical groups. An outline programme for Saturday, 16 November is as follows:

- 1200 - 1800
Funfair Pleasure Rides
Street Food
Ice Sculpting
Street Art
Street Entertainers
Community Stage programme (from 1200) on King Edward Street
Main Stage programme (from 1400) on Tay Street
Children's Stage at Horsecross

- 2.2 Artists for the Main Stage and the Community Stage programmes are being sought and the programme schedule is therefore still to be confirmed. The addition of the Community Stage 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.

- 17:30
Santa's Parade: from Thimble Row, New Row, South Street to Tay Street. This may be subject to change following consultation with Police Scotland and Roads network management.
- 18:15
Christmas Lights Switch On, special effects lighting and pyrotechnics display on Tay Street
- 18:30 onwards
Funfair Pleasure Rides
All stage entertainment continues until 21:00

- 2.3 In line with last year, it is proposed that the Perth Common Good Fund contribution supports the following elements of the programme on Saturday, 16 November:

Main stage (lighting, sound, pyrotechnic effects, and related infrastructure)	£20,000
Community 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

- 2.4 For the 2019/20 Winter Festival, the impact of the programme of events will be assessed by business surveys along with analysis of visits to the city.

- 2.5 The Committee is asked to:

- i) Note the current budget provision from 2019/20 in respect of the Christmas Lights Switch On programme for Saturday, 16 November and approve the specific expenditure outlined in the report.

Author

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Approved

Name	Designation	Date
Barbara Renton	Executive Director – Housing and Environment	5 September 2019

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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 activities contribute to the Community Plan's strategic objectives of 'Promoting a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy', and a 'Safe Welcoming Environment' and the outcomes of 'a thriving, expanding economy' and 'employment opportunities for all'.

Corporate Plan

- 1.2 Perth and Kinross Council Corporate Plan 2018/22 sets out five strategic objectives:
- (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; and
 - (v) Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations.
- 1.3 This report relates to Objective No (iii) 'Promoting a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy' and the outcome of 'Thriving, expanding economy' by encouraging and supporting tourism.

2. Resource Implications

Financial

- 2.1 As part of the 2019/20 budget process, the Common Good Fund 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 City of Perth Winter Festival – Report to the Environment and Infrastructure Committee, 20 March 2019 (19/86)