

Report on	Festive Lights Funding
Date of Meeting	3 rd November 2022
Reporting Officer	Claire Linney, Assistant Director of Development
Contact Officers	Philip Clarke - Community Services Manager

Is this report restricted for confidential business?	Yes	
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	No	X

1	Purpose of Report
1.1	Festive Lights Fund - to seek approval for use of capital funding
2	Key Issues
2.1	<p>Festive Lights Fund</p> <p>At the October 2022 Development meeting, the Committee recommended that the Policy and Resources Committee consider the allocation of 'one off', in year, capital funding to support current recipients of the Councils Festive Lights Fund. This additional funding would allow groups to purchase additional festive lighting to add to, and /or replace their current stock.</p> <p>Members will be aware that Council entered into a funding arrangement with the local community to provide Christmas lights across the rural areas of the District. Council currently provides for the 5 main towns.</p> <p>As part of the 3 year Community Grant Review, consultation was undertaken with local groups. A key comment/issue from the review consultation was the pressure on groups to deliver on the Christmas Festive Lights. Currently there are 60 local community groups who partner with Council in the delivery of festive lights across the rural areas of the District.</p> <p>One of the key issues raised by groups is that it takes the full grant award, and match voluntary contribution from the wider community, to install the festive lights each year. This leaves no available funding for renewing or replacing stock. Council previously provided a small festive lights grant over and above the revenue support to allow for groups to add to or replace festive lights stock.</p> <p>It is proposed to do a similar investment in 2022, as a one-off fund for groups to purchase new or replacement Festive Lights including LED, solar, energy efficiency options.</p>

	<p>The investment to each group/ area would be up to the maximum amount of their current revenue allocation, which is currently £1,250 - £3,000, based on settlement size.</p> <p>The overall additional budget implications is £108,250 as a one off investment.</p>
3.1	<p>Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications</p> <p>Financial:</p> <p>Financial contribution £108,250 from Capital (Festive Lights), to be funded as a one off allocation to the Festive Lights Fund.</p> <p>Human: NA</p> <p>Risk Management: NA</p>
4	<p>Screening & Impact Assessments</p> <p>Equality & Good Relations Implications: NA</p> <p>Rural Needs Implications: NA</p>
5	Recommendations
5.1	<p>Members are recommended to;</p> <p>(i) Approve the allocation of up to £108,250 from the Council Capital fund as a one off capital allocation to current recipients of the Festive Lights Fund.</p> <p>*Members are advised that the Policy and Resources Committee have delegated authority to deal with this matter therefore the decision will be implemented following the committee meeting. <i>This will be subject to Council decision of 27th October.</i></p> <p>-</p>
6	List of Documents Attached
	None