



Portfolio Holder Report

The portfolio holder will make a decision on this item after seven days have elapsed (including the date of publication).

Report of:	Portfolio Holder	Date of publication
Marianne Hesketh, Service Director Performance and Innovation	Cllr Alan Vincent, Resources Portfolio Holder	30 June 2016

Festive Lighting Grant Support – Application Process

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To agree to a new one year trial of a process for the distribution of the grant support for festive lighting / displays for 2016/17.

2. Outcomes

- 2.1 Thriving communities and town/village centres.
- 2.2 Better community ownership and a shared responsibility for improving our neighbourhoods.

3. Recommendation

- 3.1 That the festive lighting grant support of £22,240 be continued for 2016/17 but that distribution of financial support is through the submission of funding bids.

4. Background

- 4.1 The Council's original aim when agreeing to provide grants for festive lighting was to encourage local sponsorship and promote economic vitality in Wyre's Town Centres.
- 4.2 The contribution is paid to a recognised body in each town who decides how the grant will be spent. Historically the grant support has been automatically paid to Fleetwood, Cleveleys, Thornton, Poulton, Garstang and Preesall. Concerns have been raised that this grant is not being fairly distributed across Wyre with only 3 of the 21 parished areas receiving a contribution.

5. Key issues and proposals

- 5.1** Festive lighting grant support promotes the economic vitality of our Wyre town and village centres during the festive period but it is recognised that a scheme needs to be implemented which is more accessible across the borough.
- 5.2** A review has been conducted with a view to distributing the grant support through an application process which would be open to all areas of Wyre and would be scored by a panel. A bidding process would ensure that funding is directed at the most appropriate schemes and improve community engagement.
- 5.3** The application process is open to constituted groups in Wyre, including parish and town councils, with an interest in providing a town/village centre festive display project in 2016/17. The guidance, criteria and application form is available at www.wyre.gov.uk/festivefunding with a deadline for submission by 1 September 2016.
- 5.4** The maximum amount any one scheme can apply for is £5,000. Applications received will be checked and managed by the council's engineering team, and those that meet the criteria will be forwarded for decision to the festive display panel due to meet late September. The panel will be made up of the Head of Engineering, the Engineering Assistant and the Policy and Engagement Manager.
- 5.5** Applicants are encouraged to seek backing from the Shaping Your Neighbourhood Lead Member and Parish/Town Council where applicable. Applications must evidence their compliance with insurance, published health and safety and inspection regulations, and cannot introduce maintenance implications/further cost for the council. To support stronger links with local shops/businesses and the community, fundraising, sponsorship and collaboration is explicitly encouraged in the new guidance and can raise the score of eligible applications.
- 5.6** The new application process will be trialled for 2016/17. A review will be carried out early in 2017 to determine the effectiveness of the new process.

Delegated functions

- 6.1** The matters referred to in this report are considered under the following executive function delegated to the Resources Portfolio Holder (as set out in Part 3 of the council's constitution): "To determine payment of grants to outside bodies within the Council's scheme and budget"

Financial and legal implications	
Finance	<p>The grant support provided in 2015/16 totalled £22,252 and was awarded as follows:</p> <p>Cleveleys - £4,342 Fleetwood - £4,342 Poulton-le-Fylde - £4,342 Garstang - £4,342 Thornton - £2,442 Knott End/Preesall - £2,442</p> <p>Cleveleys subsequently returned £2,492 being the balance of their grant which was not spent.</p> <p>The 2016/17 Revenue Estimates includes a provision for Festive Lighting of £22,240 and this is fixed ongoing. No additional costs are expected to be incurred in relation to the change in process.</p>
Legal	<p>The Council has powers under section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 and the overarching well-being power contained in Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000 to incur expenditure to promote or improve the economic, social or environmental well-being of its area. There is no statutory provision to provide such funding, i.e. it is a discretionary service therefore must be exercised reasonably. Organisations will need to be properly constituted and ensure that they have public liability insurance of £10 million pounds in place before the funding can be released.</p>

Other risks/implications: checklist

If there are significant implications arising from this report on any issues marked with a ✓ below, the report author will have consulted with the appropriate specialist officers on those implications and addressed them in the body of the report. There are no significant implications arising directly from this report, for those issues marked with a x.

risks/implications	✓ / x
community safety	x
equality and diversity	x
sustainability	x
health and safety	x

risks/implications	✓ / x
asset management	x
climate change	x
data protection	x

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List of background papers:		
name of document	date	where available for inspection

List of appendices

None

arm/ph/re/cr/16/0007mh1