

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 5 OCTOBER 2000

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS 2000

Report by Director of Community Services

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To request approval to expend up to £8,000 from the Kilmarnock Common Good Fund to finance the provision of Christmas Lights in Kilmarnock Town Centre.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Community Services Committee has a budget of £20,000 for Christmas lights throughout East Ayrshire. In 1999/2000 the actual cost of Christmas lights was £39,000. If the Council wishes to provide Christmas lights on a similar scale to previous years a sum of £20,000 will be required to supplement the existing budget. The Community Services Committee could not fund this additional requirement without detriment to existing services. The estimated cost for 2000/2001 is £40,000.
- 2.2 In 1998 and 1999 the Common Good Fund provided the balance of £19,000 to provide the lights in Kilmarnock.

3. CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The Christmas lights in Kilmarnock Town Centre provide the centrepiece of the Council's displays and assist attracting shoppers to the town. In recognition of this factor letters have been sent to businesses in Kilmarnock Town Centre requesting sponsorship for the lights. To date replies have been received, three of which have been positive. The sponsors are listed in Appendix 1 to this report.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 A contribution of up to £8,000 is requested from the Kilmarnock Common Good Fund to assist in the provision of Christmas Lights. Other potential funding sources are currently being investigated to meet the budget shortfall.

5. LEGAL AUTHORITY/IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Nil

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Nil

7. CONCLUSIONS

7.1 In order to provide Christmas lights at a similar level to the 1999 displays an additional sum of £20,000 is required.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 It is recommended that the Committee approves the expenditure of up to £8,000 from the Common Good Fund for the provision of Christmas lights in Kilmarnock.

William Stafford
Director of Community Services

WS/JAG/SAM

14th September 2000

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL

Implementation Officer – (william.stafford@east-ayrshire.gov.uk)

Name of Business	Amount of Sponsorship
Henderson (Jewellers)	£300
Dollands & Aitchison (Opticians)	£100
Farmfoods	£20 vouchers

AGENDA