ABSTRACT
The report details the cost and inconvenience of storing Christmas Lighting decorations in containers and proposes the lease of a suitable building in Forfar through Property Services.

1 RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1 It is recommended that the Committee agree:-

   (i) to approve the 10 year lease for facilities in Carseview Road, Forfar for the storage of Christmas Lighting features;

   (ii) to instruct the Director of Property Services and the Director of Law and Administration to arrange the lease.

2 DETAILS

2.1 At present Christmas Lighting features are stored in 9 No. hired metal containers. The problems associated with this arrangement include:-

   • Insufficient room to stack decorations in an organised fashion

   • Lack of a facility to test and repair decorations resulting in double handling of the decorations to test/repair

   • Condensation leading to deterioration of fittings

   • Health and Safety implications for operatives working in metal containers and increased manual handling

2.2 The proposed store situated in Carseview Road, Forfar has been sourced through Property Services and offers the following advantages: -

   • Has sufficient room to store decorations in a ‘Town by Town’ manner, saving time when returning to site.

   • Will allow features to be tested and repaired insitu, reducing the handling and time to do so.
• Will provide adequate protection, heat and light for operatives to work in a safe environment and prevent unnecessary deterioration of features.

• Will provide safe and secure accommodation.

• Will allow easy access for vehicles delivering/loading features.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 There will be an additional annual cost of £1,500, being the difference between the annual leasing charge of £7,000 and the present cost of £5,500 for hiring containers. This additional cost will require to be contained within the provision for Christmas Lighting of £56,000 within the Miscellaneous Other Services Budget. These additional costs will however be mitigated by increased efficiency and effectiveness and improved Health and Safety in operational procedures and working practices.

4 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no human rights implications arising from the proposals in this report.

5 CONSULTATION

5.1 The Chief Executive, the Director of Law and Administration, the Director of Finance and the Director of Property Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

R W McNeil
DIRECTOR OF ROADS

NOTE:

No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above Report.

PG/AS
28 January 2004
REPORTS/light.xmastore