

ANGUS COUNCIL

RESOURCES AND CENTRAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

2 DECEMBER 2004

CHRISTMAS LIGHTING
UTILISATION OF COMMON GOOD FUNDS

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF ROADS

ABSTRACT

This Report details the previous use of the Common Good Funds for the purchase/replacement of Christmas Lighting features, notes that the current arrangements for funding the annual expenditure on Christmas lighting are under review, and seeks homologation of the agreement of the Director of Finance, the Director of Law and Administration, and the local elected members to the continued use of the contributions from the Common Good Funds towards the Christmas lighting displays in 2004/05.

1 RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 It is recommended that the Committee agree to homologate the agreement of the Director of Finance, the Director of Law and Administration, and the local elected members that the customary contributions from the Common Good Funds towards the cost of the Christmas lighting displays be continued for 2004/05.

2 DETAILS

- 2.1 In previous years, Common Good Funds have been utilised for the purchase/replacement of Christmas lighting features on a pound-for-pound matched funding basis with funding raised by the local community organisations. This use of Common Good Funding has been up to a maximum of £3000 per annum per burgh where there have been sufficient funds available within the various Common Good Funds for the individual burghs.
- 2.2 In Report No 555/04 presented to this Committee on 22 June 2004 the Council revised its Common Good Fund Policy requiring departments to submit bids as part of the Budget Review process for the utilisation of Common Good Funds. This policy is being introduced for the first time in the budget preparation process for 2005/06 and therefore does not cover the current financial year.
- 2.3 The Director of Roads, who is responsible for Christmas lighting, requested approval from the Director of Finance, the Director of Law and Administration and the local elected members for the allocation of contributions from the Common Good Funds to match the funding raised by the various local community organisations up to the agreed pound-for-pound limit of £3000 for this season's Christmas lighting displays. Members are asked to note that the local Community Council in Kirriemuir, unaware

of the fact that the Council's contribution came from common good funds, had made application to the Kirriemuir Common Good Fund to meet their share of the proposed improvements to the Christmas lighting. Given the short time that would be available to the community to realise their contribution from another source, it has been agreed that the Kirriemuir Common Good Fund would meet both elements of the pound-for-pound funding.

- 2.4 Approval for the continuation of this customary use of Common Good Funds was duly received and the committee is asked to homologate that agreement.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The Director of Finance has advised that there are adequate reserves within the Common Good Funds for Arbroath, Montrose, Forfar and Brechin to meet the public contribution of £3000 for matched funding and £3000 within the Common Good Fund of Kirriemuir to meet both the promoter's contribution (£1500) and the public contribution (£1500) for this year only.
- 3.2 The remainder of the public element of matched funding in other burghs which have no Common Good Funds will be met through the Miscellaneous Other Services Budget for Christmas lighting in accordance with the council policy.

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 local members for Arbroath, Montrose, Forfar, Brechin and Kirriemuir have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

Ronnie McNeil
DIRECTOR OF ROADS

NOTE:

The following 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 this Report:-

Report No 555/04 - Common Good Funds – Policy Guidelines and Administration Procedures – Strategic Policy Committee – 22 June 2004.

IAC/JSG
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REPORTS/christmas.lights.funds