AGENDA ITEM NO 22
REPORT NO 292/11

ANGUS COUNCIL
INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES COMMITTEE – 19 APRIL 2011
CHRISTMAS LIGHTING – PREPARATION FOR 2011 DISPLAYS
REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

ABSTRACT
This report informs Committee on the progress to date (end March 2011) regarding the preparation for the forthcoming Christmas Lighting displays

1 RECOMMENDATIONS
1.1 It is recommended that the Committee notes the contents of this report;

2 DETAILS
2.1 In Reports 419/10 and 507/10 reported to Committee on 1 June and 29 July 2010 respectively the Committee established the way forward for future Christmas Lighting displays. There had been consultation in summer 2010 with the communities involved in Christmas Lighting and some of these communities sought to contribute financially to the displays.

2.2 The previous reports established the contributions to be provided by the communities and possible contributions from Common Good Funds. This report now seeks to inform the committee of the current position as the Roads division seeks to put in place provision for displays which will be erected for the festive period 2011/12.

2.3 Appendix 1 details the situation for each of the Burgh towns noting that discussions have already taken place/are arranged with community groups.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS
3.1 As detailed in Appendix 1, additional funding contributions have been secured from the community groups and Common Good Funds to aid replacement/enhancement of lighting displays for Christmas 2011. The cost to Angus Council of providing Christmas lighting displays for 2011/12 will be contained within the Other Services budget allocation £132,000 with additional monies from the community groups and Common Good Funds as per Appendix 1 to this report.

4 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPlications
4.1 There are no human rights implications arising from the proposals in this report.

5 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS
5.1 The issues contained in this report fall within an approved category that has been confirmed as exempt from an equalities perspective.

6 SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT
6.1 This report contributes to the following local outcome contained within the Single Outcome Agreement for Angus:
• Communities in Angus are Safe, secure and vibrant
7 CONSULTATION

7.1 The Chief Executive, Director of Corporate Services, Head of Neighbourhood Services, Head of Finance, and Head of Law and Administration were consulted in the preparation of this report.

8 CONCLUSION

8.1 This report informs the Committee of the current situation in each of the burgh towns with regard to preparing for the Christmas lighting displays for 2011/12.

ERIC S LOWSON
DIRECTOR OF INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

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 419/10 Christmas Lighting1 June 2010
Report 507/10 Christmas Lighting 29 July 2010

Roads/JG/IAC
Christmas Lighting Preparation by Burgh

Arbroath

£55,000 has been granted from the Common Good Fund to provide a new design and display throughout the High Street area, along with minor infrastructure works and to extend provision to Millgate Loan and Westport.

A contract has been awarded for the design and display following a meeting of the local elected members.

Brechin

The community is providing the funds (£5,025) required to replace previously identified faulty features along with an allocation from the Common Good Fund on a matched basis. The extent of the lighting displays will therefore be maintained with the renewal costs being met by the community and matched funding from the Common Good Fund. Neighbourhood Services who are responsible for the supply of the Christmas trees have indicated that from Christmas 2011, Brechin will only be provided with one Christmas tree. This will bring them in line with all other burghs in the authority. Discussions have taken place with the community regarding the preferred site or the possibility of the community funding a second tree.

Carnoustie

A meeting with the community has concluded that the community are unlikely to provide the funding required to maintain the lighting display of 2010 and consequently it has been agreed to limit the display as per option 1 of report 419/10. The extent of the 2011 display will be from Station Road to Links Avenue. Replacement features will be funded from Other Services in accordance with committee report 507/10. Due to the ongoing development within the old Kinloch Primary School grounds it may be necessary to move the site for the Christmas tree. At the time of writing, this is to be progressed with Property Division. An alternative site has been suggested, if necessary and discussions are required with Neighbourhood Services regarding access issues.

Forfar

The community are satisfied with the extent of the lighting display in 2010 but would like to improve some of the features within this area. A contribution of up to £10,000 from the Common Good Fund was approved last year of which £3,500 was utilised. The proposal for 2011 is to replace the three cross street features which caused concerns during 2010 along with an additional two cross street feature at the entrance to Castle Street from East/West High Street. This will be funded from the replacement portion of the budget along with the balance from last year’s Common Good monies. There is a view that further monies may be made available from the Common Good Fund if required and this would be reported to Corporate Services Committee as necessary.

Kirriemuir

There are no proposals to date from the community to contribute to the display and the display will be the extent as was provided in 2010 with replacement lights funded from the Other Services budget in accordance with committee report 507/10.

Monifieth

There are no proposals to date from the community to contribute to the display and the display will be the extent as was provided in 2010 with replacement lights funded from the Other Services budget in accordance with committee report 507/10.
Montrose

There has been a delay in a final decision on the level of future community funding to be provided. It is understood that a public meeting is being arranged by the community council to be held at the end of April. There have been several meetings with officers and an agreement in principle that the full extent of the displays will be provided in 2011, but formal confirmation of the funding to be provided from the community council is awaited at the time of writing this report. An update will be provided to local members if this position changes significantly. Common Good funding to match any funding provided by the community has been approved up to a total value of £3,588 for 2011.