
COMMITTEE	Finance, Policy and Resources
DATE	6 May 2014
DIRECTOR	Gordon McIntosh
TITLE OF REPORT	Provision of Festive Lighting
REPORT NUMBER:	EPI/14/114
CHECKLIST RECEIVED:	Yes

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report advises Committee of the intention to tender for festive lighting for a maximum of three years and seeks approval of the estimated expenditure as detailed in this report.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that the Committee:

- a. notes that the officers of the Council are preparing to tender for the design, supply, installation, removal and maintenance of festive lighting
- b. approves the estimated expenditure for the design, supply, installation, removal and maintenance of festive lighting, of approx. £105,000 per annum from the Common Good Fund, for the three-year period 2014-2017 giving a total estimated expenditure of £315,000 from the Common Good Fund, in accordance with SO1(3) of the Council's Standing Orders Relating to Contracts and Procurement.
- c. subject to best value being shown and a suitable budget being available, the committee approves the purchase of the festive lighting at the end of the 3 year period, for the value given in the awarded tender
- d. approves the expenditure up to a maximum of £8,000 per annum from the Common Good Fund for the three-year period 2014-2017 for the provision of electricity to power the festive lighting in accordance with SO1(3) of the Council's Standing Orders Relating to Contracts and Procurement.

- e. approves any residual money between the festive lighting contract and the provisions approved within the relevant annual budget be used to install up-lighters or similar to Rubislaw Terrace Gardens, Union Terrace Gardens, Schoolhill Pocket Park etc over the next three years.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The cost will be met from the Common Good Fund with provision for £169,000 in year 2014/15, £164,000 in year 2015/16 and £173,000 for the year 2016/17 being made within the budget approved on 6 February 2014 at Council.

While the tender price will be set in accordance with the tender the cost of energy for festive lighting may vary depending on supplier charges.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

All activities are undertaken in a safe manner through controls on suitably qualified staff, risk assessments and application of internationally recognised standards.

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

Historically, the city centre festive lights have been provided by the City Council for the people of Aberdeen and are an important part of the City's Winter Festival. In recent years the funding has been provided from the Common Good Fund. The current arrangement of festive lighting includes: 11 No. cross-street features in Union Street; 2 No. cross-street features in Bridge Street; 2 No. cross-street features in Belmont Street; 1 No cross-street feature in Shiprow and various associated features and lights in The Castlegate. Appropriate decorations for Castlegate Christmas tree are also included in this contract.

In 2008 the Council agreed to secure the design, supply, installation and maintenance of festive lighting. As the contract price exceeded the EU Threshold and the threshold in the Council's Standing Orders the procurement exercise was done as an open procurement under the Procurement Regulations. The tendered value of the contract for 2008 was £185,000 per annum (which sum comprised £5,000 relative to electricity costs and £180,000 for the supply installation and maintenance of the festive lighting) and the work was carried out for the contract value of £555,000 for the period 2008, 2009 and 2010.

In 2010 the Contract was once again tendered as an open procurement under the Procurement Regulations and awarded for a three year period. This contract finished in September 2014 (work was carried out for the contract value of £310,000 for the period 2011, 2012 and 2013.)

It is proposed that any residual money between the festive lighting contract and the provisions approved within the relevant annual budget be used to install up-lighters or similar to Rubislaw Terrace Gardens, Union Terrace Gardens, Schoolhill Pocket Park over the next three years.

Additional schemes being considered, should there be sufficient finances within the budget, are cross street festive lighting on Rose Street, Chapel Street, Market Street (North end) and possible repairs to building floodlights which feature as part of Aberdeen's floodlite trail.

Several meetings have taken place between ACC and Aberdeen Inspired to ensure that the lighting schemes across the city are co-ordinated and complimentary. In the provision of festive lighting, Aberdeen Inspired will continue with the provision of building lighting and festive lighting to the west end of the city whilst ACC will provide festive lighting as per the original base line agreement.

6. IMPACT

The continued delivery of Aberdeen's festive illuminations will support the administrations aims through:

Aberdeen-the Smarter City

We will embrace the distinctive pride the people of Aberdeen take in their city and work with them to enhance the sense of well-being here, building strong communities which look out for, and look after one another.

We will promote Aberdeen as a great place to live, bring up a family, do business and visit.

We will ensure that Union Street regains its position as the heart of the city and move cultural activity centre-stage through re-invigorated cultural leadership.

Single Outcome Agreement - National Outcomes: 1, 5, 10, 12, 13, 14.

Public – Public interest is high in relation to Festive Lighting. Switch on Parade provides a high level of involvement with the public and local press.

Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment (EHRIA) – Not Applicable in this instance

7. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

There is a risk that a delay in procuring festive lighting may mean that the Council could be unable to provide the usual or a better standard of festive lighting. Early approval of the process will minimise this risk.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

EP&I Committee 15/03/2011 Festive Lighting EPI/11/107

<http://councilcommittees/documents/b5710/Private%20ADDITIONAL%20CIRCULATION%2015th-Mar-2011%2014.00%20Enterprise%20Strategic%20Planning%20and%20Infrastructu.pdf?T=109>

9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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