



Portfolio Holder Report

The portfolio holder will make a decision on this item after seven days have elapsed (including the date of publication).

Report of:	Portfolio Holder	Date of publication
Mark Billington, Service Director People and Places	Cllr Alan Vincent, Resources Portfolio Holder	31 May 2018

Festive Lighting Grant Support

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To agree a revised process for the distribution of grant support for festive lighting / displays for 2018/19 and ongoing.

2. Outcomes

- 2.1 Thriving communities and town/village centres.
- 2.2 Better community ownership and a shared responsibility for improving our neighbourhoods.

3. Recommendation

- 3.1 That the festive lighting grant scheme be updated to reflect the fixed distribution of financial support towards areas currently receiving funding on the understanding that they commit to the provision of match funding (either monetary or in-kind contributions).

4. Background

- 4.1 The Council's original aim when agreeing to provide grants for festive lighting was to encourage local sponsorship and promote economic vitality in Wyre's Town Centres.
- 4.2 The contribution has been paid to a recognised body in each town who decides how the grant will be spent. Prior to 2016/17 the grant support was automatically paid to Fleetwood, Cleveleys, Thornton, Poulton, Garstang and Preesall.

- 4.3** A review was conducted in 2016 to explore ways that the grant could be made more accessible across the borough. A new process for distributing the grant support was agreed in June 2016 which introduced a more transparent application process which was open to all areas of Wyre and was scored by a panel.
- 4.4** The application process was open to constituted groups in Wyre, including parish and town councils, with an interest in providing a town/village centre festive display project. Groups were asked to contribute match funding (either monetary or in-kind contributions such as volunteer time) and a phased reduction in the available grant was used to encourage a move towards more sustainable sources of funding in the future.
- 4.5** The new application process was trialled for 2016/17 and 2017/18. During this period the following grants were distributed based on applications received:

Area	2016/17	2017/18
	£	£
Fleetwood	5,000	3,470
Cleveleys	1,500	1,000
Thornton	2,480	2,280
Poulton	4,300	3,170
Hambleton	2,500	2,326
Preesall with Knott End	3,400	3,170
Garstang	5,000	3,170
Total	24,180	18,586

5. Key issues and proposals

- 5.1** Following the two year trial period it is recommended that the festive lighting grant support is continued but this be targeted to the existing recipients, predominantly in Wyre's town centres, in order to promote economic vitality during the festive period.
- 5.2** A commitment will be sought from the seven areas that match funding will be provided prior to the distribution of the grant.
- 5.3** The proposed fixed allocations in 2018/19, and ongoing until a further decision is made, will be as follows:

Area	2018/19
	£
Fleetwood	3,200
Cleveleys	1,000
Thornton	2,300
Poulton	3,200
Hambleton	2,300
Preesall with Knott End	3,200
Garstang	3,200
Total	18,400

6. Delegated functions

- 6.1 The matters referred to in this report are considered under the following executive function delegated to the Resources Portfolio Holder (as set out in Part 3 of the council's constitution): "To determine payment of grants to outside bodies within the Council's scheme and budget"

Financial and legal implications	
Finance	The proposals outlined in this report are within existing budgets and no additional costs are expected in relation to the change in process.
Legal	The Council has powers under section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 and the overarching well-being power contained in Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000 to incur expenditure to promote or improve the economic, social or environmental well-being of its area. There is no statutory provision to provide such funding, i.e. it is a discretionary service therefore must be exercised reasonably. Organisations will need to be properly constituted and ensure that they have public liability insurance of £10 million pounds in place before the funding can be released.

Other risks/implications: checklist

If there are significant implications arising from this report on any issues marked with a ✓ below, the report author will have consulted with the appropriate specialist officers on those implications and addressed them in the body of the report. There are no significant implications arising directly from this report, for those issues marked with a x.

risks/implications	✓ / x
community safety	x
equality and diversity	x
sustainability	x
health and safety	x

risks/implications	✓ / x
asset management	x
climate change	x
data protection	x

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List of background papers:		
name of document	date	where available for inspection
None		

List of appendices

None

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