

**To: Renfrew and Gallowhill Local Area Committee**

**On: 21 August 2018**

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**Report by: Chief Executive**

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**Heading: Renfrew Christmas Lights Switch On**

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**1. Summary**

- 1.1 The Christmas Lights Switch On in Renfrew is an enjoyable and valued annual event that fosters community spirit and encourages wide participation of residents and children within the community. This has a positive effect on the local economy allowing local retailers to maximise trade on the day. The fireworks display was part of the celebratory relaunch following the refurbishment of the Town Hall and display showcased the full beauty of the building and its architectural splendour. Due to the success of this, there was a subsequent request to integrate a display into the annual Switch On event. In addition, the event evolved at the request of the Community Council to include the reindeer and outdoor activities. Renfrewshire Council's event budget supports all the indoor programming, marketing and the infrastructure required to launch the fireworks.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to seek the LAC's support for funding for these enhanced activities which will be requested from the main Renfrew Common Good Fund. This will require a report to be submitted to the meeting of the Finance, Resources and Customer Services Policy Board to be held on 5 September 2018.

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## 2. **Recommendations**

- 2.1 That the Renfrew and Gallowhill Local Area Committee is requested to support the proposals from the Head of Marketing to maintain the Renfrew Christmas Lights Switch On event and improve the experience for both visitors and the local business community.
- 2.2 That it be noted that a report would be submitted to the meeting of the Finance, Resources and Customer Services Policy Board to be held on 5 September 2018.

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## 3. **Background**

- 3.1 Renfrew Christmas Lights Switch On is being held on Saturday 24 November 2018. The event will be held at Renfrew Town Hall and outdoors in Renfrew town centre with a range of free activities for families to enjoy culminating in a fireworks finale as the lights are switched on. The event attracts audiences of 4,000.
- 3.2 In 2017 additional funding enabled the outdoor activities to include a Santa's grotto with present give-away and reindeer enclosure as well as a live music stage with local acts and choirs hosted by from Pulse FM. Activities in the Town Hall included a concert by the Burgh Band and Civic Reception, an interactive theatre performance 'The Elves Are Very Shy' for the under 5s, children's craft workshops, face painters and a balloon modeller.
- 3.3 The Christmas lights switch on event is accessible to all. All activities apart from the fun-fair are free and all rooms are accessible to those with mobility issues. The outdoor firework viewing area will have an area set aside for wheelchair users.
- 3.4 It has been identified that a funding investment of £10,000 would allow the Council to invest in the following areas:
  - £1,500 for the free Santa's grotto and gifts
  - b. £2,000 for equipment and production (outdoor Staging & PA System)
  - c. £1,500 for hire of Santa and reindeer.

- d. £5,000 for fireworks

## Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** – £10,000 grant funding from the Renfrew Common Good Fund
  2. **HR & Organisational Development** – N/A
  3. **Community Planning** – N/A
  4. **Legal** – N/A
  5. **Property/Assets** – N/A
  6. **Information Technology** – N/A.
  7. **Equality & Human Rights** – N/A
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- (a) The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.

8. **Health & Safety** – N/A
  9. **Procurement** – N/A
  10. **Risk** - N/A
  11. **Privacy Impact** - N/A
  12. **COSLA Policy Position** –N/A
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## List of Background Papers

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