

To: Finance and Resources Policy Board

On: 5th September 2018

Report by: Chief Executive

Heading: Renfrew Light Switch on

1. Summary

- 1.1 The Christmas Lights Switch On in Renfrew is a valued annual event that fosters community spirit and encourages wide participation of residents and children within the community. This has a positive impact on the local economy allowing local retailers to maximise trade on the day. The fireworks display was introduced to celebrate the relaunch of the Town Hall following refurbishment. Due to the success of the event, there was a request to integrate a fireworks display into the annual Switch On event. The event subsequently evolved at the request of the Community Council to include reindeers and a programme of outdoor activities. The event is produced and delivered by Renfrewshire Council's event team who provide indoor programming, marketing and the infrastructure required to host the event and launch the fireworks..
-

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Board is asked to approve the contribution of £10k to the Chief Executive's Event Service to support the costs for delivering the infrastructure required to launch the fireworks, the indoor animation programme and marketing
-

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 previous years additional Local Area Committee funding has enabled an enhanced programme of activities to be delivered including Santa's grotto with gift give-away, reindeers and a live music stage programmed with local acts and choirs hosted by Pulse FM. Activities in the Town Hall include programming such as concerts, interactive theatre performance 'The Elves Are Very Shy' for the under 5s, children's craft workshops, face painters and balloon modellers.
 - 3.3 An application was prepared for Renfrew and Gallowhill Local Area Committee to secure support for the 2018 Renfrew Light Switch On, however, due to the allocation of £40k to support new festive lighting in Renfrew there were insufficient funds to support this application.
 - 3.4 A report was subsequently submitted to Renfrew and Gallowhill Local Area Committee to ask for their support to submit a request for funding to Finance Board for £10k for Renfrew Light Switch On to make up the budget shortfall for 2018 only.
 - 3.5 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.
-

Implications of the Report

- 1. **Financial** - £10,000 grant funding from the Renfrew Common Good Fund
- 2. **HR & Organisational Development** - none
- 3. **Community/Council Planning** - none
- 4. **Property/Assets** - none
- 5. **Legal** - none
- 6. **Information Technology** - none

7. Equality & Human Rights:

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 – none

9. Procurement - none

10. Risk - none

11. Privacy Impact - none

12. Cosla Policy Position - none

List of Background Papers - none

Author: Amanda Moulson, Chief Executive's Service