

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET

5th NOVEMBER 2008

CAPITAL PROGRAMME INCREASE – CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Responsible Portfolio Holder	Councillor June Griffiths
Responsible Head of Service	Mike Bell Street Scene and Community

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report requests Members consider an increase in the Capital Programme of £48,000 to fund purchase of new Christmas lights.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 The Executive Cabinet is recommended to:

- 2.1.1 Request Full Council approve an increase to the Capital Programme of £48,000 to fund the Christmas lights to be funded from available revenue contributions.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Christmas lights have been reduced in capacity over the last 3 years due to wear and tear and age, along with a number of concerns being raised in relation to the Health and Safety aspect of the lights and the surrounding infrastructure due to legislation. In addition to this the public have highlighted concerns over poor displays in the last few years, and a survey recently carried out showed that Christmas Lights in the Town was a priority.
- 3.2 The installation of the new Christmas Lights forms a significant part of the Regeneration of Bromsgrove Town Centre. A selection of the lights situated in the trees will remain in situ across the calendar year for other Council and Community Events.
- 3.3 Officers have considered the infrastructure costs as well as installation and supply for Christmas Lights in Bromsgrove and Rubery.
- 3.4 The Council's procurement procedure has been followed to supply/install and set up new infrastructure in conjunction with Street Scene and Community. The company selected are a large company with an international reputation based upon the quality and reliability of their products and service.
- 3.5 Due to the costs relating to new lights and infrastructure the funding has to be classed as capital rather than revenue. There is an approved revenue budget of £23k available for the Christmas lights electricity, maintenance and minor

purchase. In order to meet the requirement of new lights and infrastructure it is proposed that £3k remains to fund the electricity and the additional funding of £28k is met from the Councils grant received in relation to Local Authority Business Grant Initiative (LABGI). The Council received £152k in July 2008, a proportion of which will be utilised to fund the Christmas lights

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The £20k virement from revenue and £28k funding from LABGI will be utilised to fund the Capital Programme increase for the costs associated with the new lighting infrastructure.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no legal implications from this report.

6. CORPORATE OBJECTIVES

6.1 The improved lights will enhance the environment of the Town Centre and its future redevelopment.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

7.1 The no risk management implication associated with this report other than the reputational implications if we do not provide this funding as it has been highlighted as priority in the eyes of residents and local traders over recent years.

8. CUSTOMER IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no direct customer service implications, other than those highlighted in the corporate objectives section of this report and those in section 3.1 & 3.2.

9. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Procurement Issues: The contract has been entered into following the Councils procurement procedures
Personnel Implications: None
Governance/Performance Management: None
Community Safety including Section 17 of Crime and Disorder Act 1998: None
Environmental: None
Equalities and Diversity: None

10. OTHERS CONSULTED ON THE REPORT

Portfolio Holder	Yes
Chief Executive	Yes
Corporate Director (Services)	Yes
Assistant Chief Executive	No
Head of Service	Yes
Head of Financial Services	Yes
Head of Legal & Democratic Services	No
Head of Organisational Development & HR	No
Corporate Procurement Team	No

11. **APPENDICES**

No appendices

12. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

CONTACT OFFICER

Name: John Godwin
E Mail: j.godwin@bromsgrove.gov.uk
Tel: (01527) 881730