



From mountain to sea

Appendix 2

Festive lights and attachments to street lighting columns

Policy DRAFT

9 January 2018



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1 Introduction

Galas, fetes and other similar events play an important role in community life in towns and villages across Aberdeenshire and these events often rely on the use of banners and column mounted signs for their promotion. Festive lighting at Christmas helps bring additional colour and sparkle to our town centres in the middle of winter while the increasingly widespread use of community maintained floral displays can brighten and soften otherwise grey, hard landscapes throughout the summer months.

Whilst seeking to encourage and accommodate such community involvement, the Council, as roads authority, has a duty to manage and maintain its road network in a safe manner and has to guard against the potential danger to the public or damage to street furniture that could arise through unregulated installations.

This policy aims to promote a reasonable balance in facilitating appropriate seasonal decorations within the streetscape while ensuring public safety and avoiding damage to our apparatus. Compliance with this policy should ensure that applications are dealt with fairly and consistently across the areas of Aberdeenshire.

2 Policy statement

Aberdeenshire Council recognises the contribution festive lights and other seasonal decorations can make to enhancing our streetscapes and in creating a sense of place and we will cooperate with community groups, seeking to ensure that all such installations are safe and secure.

We will:

- **Provide clear guidance on what is acceptable in a “Festive-Lighting Manual” and a “Banners, Bunting and Attachments to Lighting Columns Manual”.**
 - **Reject applications for installations which do not comply with the requirements in the manuals.**
 - **Remove unauthorised installations and seek to recover costs from the responsible persons.**
 - **Only consider applications for column-mounted festive lights within the main footfall areas of settlements.**
 - **Recover, from applicants, the cost of electricity consumed by festive lights.**
 - **Liaise with community councils or other community groups to consider need for strengthened columns when preparing column replacement programmes for relevant locations.**
 - **Assist communities to investigate alternatives where column mounting of Christmas lights is not appropriate or practicable.**
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3 Scope

This policy shall apply to:

- All roads and street furniture adopted, or to be adopted, by Aberdeenshire Council.

4 Implementation and compliance

Aberdeenshire Council's "Festive-Lighting Manual" and "Banners, Bunting and Attachments to Lighting Columns Manual" contain detailed direction on the acceptable use of festive lights, banners, bunting and other attachments to street-lighting columns within Aberdeenshire along with guidance on how consent shall be obtained.

The Roads Policy and Asset Manager will be responsible for updating the manuals to reflect changes in legislation and any other improvements or amendments considered to be needed.

The Street Lighting Officer shall be responsible for ensuring that applications for festive lighting are assessed and processed in accordance with this policy, and that strengthened columns are considered at appropriate locations when replacing existing columns.

Local Roads and Landscape Managers shall be responsible for compliance within their areas, ensuring that guidance in the manuals is complied with and that applications (other than for festive lights) are processed in accordance with this policy.
