

## Festive Lighting Draft Policy Consultation - 18<sup>th</sup> April 2018

	You Said	We Did
<b>2 General Principles</b>		
2.1 Festive Lighting Season	Timing was generally good, but removal may be weather dependant. Can some flexibility be applied, as some communities only take down lights (although they are switched off) when erecting hanging baskets to save on double cost of 'cherry picker'	Flexibility is already applied. Where communities make reasonable requests these will be considered. Communities are urged to notify the Council as soon as possible when their dates may have to change from those approved
2.2 Commercial Sponsorship	Transitional period needs to be extended.	The manual has been revised with a 1-year extension to the previously proposed transition period.
2.3 Insurance	Insurance already in place, no issue.	-
2.4 Location	<p>Clarity required for smaller communities on 'main footfall areas'</p> <p>Community have paid for connections, if they must relocate lights will these connections be replaced?</p> <p>Some steel poles used for festive lights have been replaced by aluminium poles so can no longer be used.</p>	<p>Guidance on what could be considered to be a main footfall area is given in Section 2.4 of the Festive Lighting Manual. It is difficult to give a more exact criteria owing to the variety of communities however this will continue to be a matter of interpretation by officers.</p> <p>When columns in main footfall areas are to be replaced at the end of their serviceable life we will consult with communities to establish if the replacement should be a strengthened column. It is not currently proposed that communities would be asked to contribute towards the cost of the strengthened column or a standard connection if this is installed at the same time.</p>

	Turriff – entrance has festive lights will this no longer be permitted?	Where existing columns (outwith the main footfall areas) currently have features attached these can continue to be used (if they otherwise comply with the policy) for remainder of the columns serviceable life. Columns would not be replaced with strengthened columns and if communities wished to continue to have features at such locations other means of support would be necessary
2.5 Installation, Maintenance and Removal	<p>Test certificate and insurance is asked for, but risk assessments and electrical testing are not. These also need to be done.</p> <p>Forms should be available on web.</p> <p>PAT testing requirements are excessive prefer 3-year with annual electrical inspection.</p>	<p>Details of insurance must be submitted with applications along with the electrical testing (PAT) and inspection certificate. Officers do not ask that risk assessments are submitted but all works should be carried out by competent persons and would expect risk assessments and method statements to be in place before starting work.</p> <p>All relevant forms for working on the road are available on the website (<a href="http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/roads/residential-streets/application-forms/">http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/roads/residential-streets/application-forms/</a>). Officers will investigate adding the festive light application forms.</p> <p>Full electrical test certification by an electrician registered with an appropriate professional body would be acceptable. PAT testing, however, would be far less onerous. The annual requirement is appropriate for equipment being used, taken down, stored and re-erected on an annual basis.</p>
<b>3 Electrical Supply</b>		
3.1 Use of street-lighting electrical supply	No issue with connection, however, where lamppost poles are replaced the connectors must be like for like.	All replacement sockets shall be of the standard “commando” type.

	No need to fit RCBO protection retrospectively.	Communities will not be required to pay for retrospective changes to columns.
3.2 Payment for electricity	<p>LED does reduce costs and although the community groups would prefer not to pay for electricity costs they realise the reasons for full cost recovery.</p> <p>Query whether the processing cost will outweigh return.</p> <p>Form should differentiate between connection and erection time</p> <p>Feel that some parts of this policy are too risk averse e.g. Structural survey.</p> <p>Feels this shows a poor image of council</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>No – all electricity consumption from an unmetered supply has to be accurately declared regardless of who pays for it.</p> <p>Form will be amended to enable this.</p> <p>Requirements are based on national guidance produced by the Institution of Lighting Professionals.</p> <p>Many councils across Scotland charge for electricity supplied to festive lights</p>
3.3 Private Electrical supplies	No comment	-
3.4 Testing and inspection	<p>Is 6-month period prior to installation reasonable?</p> <p>Clarity required around who can carry out PAT testing. What is a competent person?</p>	<p>Yes – gives reasonable window of opportunity for testing.</p> <p>HSE advise that for combined inspection and testing “a greater level of knowledge and experience is needed, and the person will need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the right equipment to do the tests</li> <li>• the ability to use this test equipment properly</li> <li>• the ability to properly understand the test results”</li> </ul>

	Is the manufacturer warranty acceptable?	<p>The Festive Lighting Manual states “This shall be carried out by an authorised electrical contractor or otherwise responsible qualified person”.</p> <p>Manufacturer’s warranty would be acceptable for the first year only.</p>
4 Attachments to street-lighting columns		
4.1 Feature specification	No real issue here, would like a longer transition period to change over lights to LED.	Communities with existing features of greater than 50W that otherwise comply with the requirements in the manual may continue to use these for the remainder of their serviceable life provided that the power demand does not cause issues for the street lighting circuit. Any new features must have a wattage of no greater than 50W.
4.2 Structural Adequacy	Do not feel this should be a community responsibility. Feel very strongly that the community should not be charged for this test. Some communities have a large number of columns over 7 years old and this cost is prohibitive and may lead to festive lights being removed from the community.	It is accepted that the council is better placed to undertake structural surveys and it is now proposed that the necessary standard structural tests should be incorporated into the council’s programme of inspection and testing.
4.3 Clearances	No issue with this as already comply although feel that a degree of flexibility needs to be applied.	The specified minimum clearances are necessary to ensure public safety and any relaxation of these standards would be unacceptable.
5. Feature crossing streets	No issue here, however feel that use of polypropylene rope not being permitted will stop communities putting up bunting.	The policy aims to facilitate community involvement while maintaining public safety. The prohibition on the use of reinforced bunting should reduce the likelihood of columns being pulled over by excessive tension in the bunting.
6. Free-standing displays	No comments	-

<p>7 Applying for consent</p>	<p>Discount for groups who get their documentation in early.</p> <p>Feel 1<sup>st</sup> October is a more reasonable date.</p>	<p>It is proposed that the cost recovered from communities is the actual cost of electricity paid for by the council. Accordingly there is no scope for offering a discount.</p> <p>The latest date for receipt of applications will be changed to 1<sup>st</sup> October however it is in a community group's interest to apply as early as possible to ensure that there is time to deal with any issues.</p>
-------------------------------	--	---