

CHRISTMAS LIGHTING - ROYAL TWEED BRIDGE

Recommendation:

To consider a proposal to provide seasonal lighting on the Royal Tweed Bridge.

Council is invited to choose an option from those listed below; to either:

- (a) Commit to providing new festive lighting for the Royal Tweed Bridge, or
- (b) To accept that it is not possible to light the bridge this year.

	Yes	No
Does the decision involve new expenditure?	Yes	
Is there an existing budget for the proposed expenditure (insert code)	Partially	
What procurement level is required?	None since procurement will be by partners	
Are there equalities impacts / an equalities assessment required?		No
Does this require a full council decision? (Reports for full council decision should still be sent to the relevant committee where possible.)	Yes	
Is there a background paper or papers? (provide links below).		No
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It has previously been acknowledged that the Christmas lights displayed on the Royal Tweed Bridge are obsolete after last winter's storms. 2. Officers have sought various routes for co-funding new lights. These have been unsuccessful. Issues have arisen both with identifying funders, and with the unwillingness of manufacturers to provide long term guarantees that justify large scale investment. 3. The option now is either to replace the former lights with a like for like scheme, or for the bridge not to be lit up during the festive season. 4. Typically, the council pays £2,500 for installation costs for the bridge lighting, and one off maintenance costs. An estimate for a like for like scheme from the voluntary group who install the lights (the Rotary Club) are that a like for like scheme would cost £20,000. 5. The Christmas lights reserve currently has approx. £13,000, so there would be a shortfall of £7,000. 		
<p>Issues arising from proposal. There is a degree of reputational risk arising from the bridge not being decorated during the festive season.</p>		
<p>Rationale for recommendation. Not applicable.</p>		