

Agenda Item

Executive Board

26 September 2007

Mike Baker



Seaton Seafront Decorative Lighting

Summary

Devon County Council have recently replaced highway lighting columns along the East Walk section of Seaton seafront, which has affected East Devon District Council decorative rope lighting attached to each column. To replace the decorative lighting would result in considerable expense, is costly to run and is considered by many to be ineffective as a decorative lighting scheme. As an alternative to replacing the decorative lighting, Devon County Council has installed more expensive bespoke lighting columns instead of the basic form of highway lighting.

Recommendation

1. That a one-off contribution from the 2007/08 revenue budget be given to Devon County Council towards the bespoke seafront lighting scheme.
2. That the sum given be the equivalent to one years running cost of the decorative lighting system calculated at £6000 from current revenue budgets.

a) Reasons for Recommendation

Devon County Council has recently been forced to replace highway lighting columns along the East Walk section of Seaton seafront due to the poor condition of the old columns. This affected East Devon District Councils decorative rope lighting attached to each column. Both Devon County Council and Seaton Town Council have been consulted on the future of the Seaton seafront decorative lighting and informed that the probability of East Devon District Council replacing the decorative lighting was very low. Had the Town Council wished the decorative lighting to be reinstated either in its present form or different design, they would have had to finance and/or run the reinstatement and maintenance of the lighting in the future. The recommendation was to be that if they were unwilling, East Devon District Council would not reinstate the scheme. Seaton Town Council were interested in taking responsibility for the decorative lighting from the District Council, however they asked that a one-off contribution be given to them by the District towards the cost of maintaining/reinstating the decorative lighting.

Devon County Council suggested that there was an alternative, which involved the installation of more attractive period style lighting columns along the seafront and abandoning the decorative lighting altogether. However, this type of scheme was far more expensive than standard lighting columns and although Devon County were prepared to install a more expensive scheme, they would require a one-off contribution from both East Devon District Council and Seaton Town Council. This option was preferred by all three Councils and due to pressures to replace the old light columns, the new lighting columns have been installed.

The associated cost for reinstatement and maintenance of the decorative lighting, had it occurred is shown in the main body of the report.

b) Alternative Options

Because of the pressures to replace the seafront lighting columns due to the very poor condition of the old ones, the option to reinstate the original decorative lighting scheme or a re-designed scheme has been dropped. A bespoke period highway lighting scheme is now in place.

c) Risk Considerations

At Seaton the seafront decorative lighting has formed an integral part of the image of the resort for many years. Removal or changes to the lighting scheme will have an affect on the Town image as a seaside resort. At the same time, the removal and reinstatement of the decorative lighting scheme forced upon East Devon District Council due to the need for Devon County Council to replace the street lighting columns would have considerable financial implications.

d) Policy and Budgetary Considerations

The potential cost of replacement/reinstatement and the ongoing maintenance cost of a decorative lighting scheme are contained within the main body of the report. This should be considered in comparison with the recommended contribution towards the bespoke highway lighting, which has negated the need to replace and run the decorative lighting.

e) Date for Review of Decision

Not applicable

1 Main Body of the Report

Devon County Council has recently been forced to replace highway lighting columns along the East Walk section of Seaton seafront due to the poor condition of the old columns. This affected East Devon District Councils decorative non neon rope lighting attached to each column. Both Devon County Council and Seaton Town Council have been consulted on the future of the Seaton seafront decorative lighting and informed that the probability of East Devon District Council replacing the decorative lighting was very low. Had the Town Council wished the decorative lighting to be reinstated either in its present form or different design, they would have had to finance and/or run the reinstatement and maintenance of the lighting in the future. The recommendation was to be that if they were unwilling, East Devon District Council would not reinstate the scheme. Seaton Town Council were interested in taking responsibility for the decorative lighting from the District Council, however they asked that a one-off contribution be given to them by the District towards the cost of maintaining/reinstating the decorative lighting.

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The estimated cost of reinstatement of the decorative lighting scheme and recent maintenance and running costs are as follows:

Inspection and repair November 2003 – October 2004.....	£4683.67
Electricity charge for same period	<u>£600.28</u>
Total expenditure.....	<u>£5283.95</u>

Inspection and repair November 2004 – October 2005.....	£5165.43
Electricity charge for same period	<u>£656.56</u>
Total expenditure.....	<u>£5821.99</u>

To remove decorative lighting to allow columns to be replaced, repaint light holders, replace brittle or worn rope light trunking, replace older rope lights, rewire and refix to columns estimated to be..... £10,000.00

The alternative option to contribute £6000 as a one-off payment to Devon County Council towards the bespoke highway lighting scheme, which has now been installed, will give East Devon District Council a considerable saving on lighting costs on Seaton seafront in the future.

Legal Implications

There are no apparent legal implications requiring comment on this report.

Financial Implications

As a result of an overspend primarily due to work carried out on Exmouth Seafront Lighting, there is no budget available in the current financial year for the proposal of a one off payment to Devon County Council.

Consultation on Reports to the Executive

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Background Papers

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Mike Baker
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