



Title of Report:	Repairs to Festive Lights
Committee Report Submitted To:	Environmental Services Committee
Date of Meeting:	12th October 2021
For Decision or For Information	For Decision

Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)	
Strategic Theme	Climate Change and Our Environment
Outcome	Continued maintenance of Festive Lighting Provision
Lead Officer	Head of Estates

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	£60,000
Included in Current Year Estimates	No
Capital/Revenue	Capital
Code	
Staffing Costs	

Screening Requirements	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	No	Date:
	EQIA Required and Completed:	No	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	No	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	No	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	No	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	No	Date:

1.0 Repairs to defective festive lighting

Over the last 8 years Council has upgraded and enhanced the festive lighting systems throughout the Borough. Given the fragility and the extremes of weather to which they are subjected, annual repair and maintenance is required

2.0 Background

Council traditionally support town centres with displays of festive lighting over the Christmas period. Over recent years major upgrades have been made throughout the Borough to improve both the displays themselves and the infrastructure required to support them. Most of the significant upgrades were completed in 2017 with some minor improvements in 2019.

Whilst these lights are designed for external use, they do experience extremes of wind, rain and frost which eventually lead to failure. To ensure the continued provision of the lighting schemes to a satisfactory standard, it is necessary to replace failed lighting and improve the electrical infrastructure. To this end up to £60,000 will be required this year to provide for repairs and maintenance.

3.0 Proposals

Testing and inspection is currently underway to assess the extent of the required replacement costs and it is anticipated that cost can be kept below £60,000 (as per last year) to ensure that displays are in keeping with previous years and to ensure the ongoing safety of the electrical infrastructure.

Funding exists in the 'Capital Lifestyle Budget'.

Note that some of the original installations (Ballymoney and Coleraine) are getting to the end of their useful life and in need of renewal. A report will be brought to Council next year with proposals for 2022 Festive Lighting requirements.

4.0 Options

- 4.1 Do not replace lights – this will lead to visible 'gaps' in lighting systems throughout the Borough with possible negative feedback. There may also be safety implications.
- 4.2 Replace lights and repair infrastructure to ensure lighting provision mirrors that of previous years

5.0 **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Environmental Services Committee considers festive lighting provision and recommends to Council their preferred option.