

Agenda Item No:

Report to: Charity Committee

Date of Meeting: 12th December 2011

Report Title: Seafront Decorative Lighting

Report By: Virginia Gilbert
Head of Amenities & Leisure

Purpose of Report

To inform the Committee of the Council's intention to install a new 'Sticks of Rock' seafront lighting scheme and seek the Committee's approval to extend the scheme onto Foreshore Trust land.

Recommendation(s)

- 1. That the Committee consider allocating £27,000 towards extending the 'Sticks of Rock' scheme from the Pier eastwards to Robertson Street.**

Reasons for Recommendations

The Council will be installing decorative lighting on seafront light columns from the Pier to London Road. The scheme can be extended to encompass 8 additional light columns on Foreshore Trust land if wished. Although the scheme could be extended at a later date, current prices will not hold and therefore the Trust may wish to be included in the immediate Council scheme.

Introduction

1. The original Sticks of Rock lighting scheme illuminated the streetlighting columns along the seafront from the Stade to West Marina. Installed in phases in 2003-2004, the units were a popular design but were badly affected by the seafront environment and began to fail progressively from 2007. In 2009, we concentrated the remaining working units from the Pier to London Road; by 2010, there were no working lights left.
2. The Council has investigated several alternative schemes which would replicate the original stick of rock design but with more robust fittings and LED lighting for reduced electricity costs.

Progress to date

3. The Council has awarded a contract to COLAS through East Sussex County Council for decorative lighting on 25 columns from the Pier westwards to London Road. The installation allows for remote changes to the colour scheme from a pc based in Aquila House or from mobile handheld equipment.
4. As COLAS is the County's street lighting contractor, they will carry out the required annual inspections of the decorative fittings within their normal inspection routine. Any required works or replacements would be the responsibility of HBC (or the Trust on its 8 columns).
5. The Trust may wish to extend the scheme to the light columns on its land from the Pier to Robertson Street. This would certainly add to the attractiveness of the area around the White Rock Baths and would provide a more complete and coherent look to this phase of installation.
6. Works will begin in January and the installation is expected to be completed before the end of February.
7. The scheme is designed in anticipation of extension to all seafront light columns in future phases when funding is available. However, the current prices for light fittings and installation are not guaranteed beyond March 2012 and are likely to rise after that time.

Consultation

8. One of the agreed actions from the 2009 Scrutiny review of the seafront was to install a new decorative lighting scheme. The action was adopted by the Coastal Users' Group within its seafront management plan.
9. The Coastal Users' Group has been consulted and is very supportive of this proposal.

Financial

10. If the Charity Committee wished to extend the scheme to the 8 columns on Foreshore Trust land from the Pier to Robertson Street, a budget of £27,000 will be required.
11. There is no provision in the Foreshore Trust Business Plan, as agreed at your September meeting, for this expenditure but it can be absorbed in the allowance for contingencies.

Wards Affected

Castle, Central St. Leonards, Gensing, West St. Leonards

Area(s) Affected

Central Hastings, East Hastings, South St. Leonards

Policy Implications

Please identify if this report contains any implications for the following:

Equalities and Community Cohesiveness	No
Crime and Fear of Crime (Section 17)	No
Risk Management	No
Environmental Issues	No
Economic/Financial Implications	Yes
Human Rights Act	No
Organisational Consequences	No
Local People's Views	No

Background Information

Officer to Contact

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