



Festive Lights and Attachments to Street Lighting Columns Policy

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Contents

1	Introduction	3
2	Policy statement	3
3	Scope	4
4	Implementation and compliance	4

1 Introduction

Galas, fetes, and other similar events play an important role in community life in towns and villages across Dumfries and Galloway and these events often rely on the use of banners and column mounted signs for their promotion. Festive lighting at Christmas helps bring additional colour and sparkle to our town centres in the middle of winter while the increasingly widespread use of community maintained floral displays can brighten and soften otherwise grey, hard landscapes throughout the summer months.

Whilst seeking to encourage and support such community involvement, the Council, as roads authority, has a duty to manage and maintain its road network including adjacent land and street furniture in a safe manner and has to guard against the potential danger to the public or damage to street furniture that could arise through unregulated installations.

This policy aims to promote a reasonable balance in facilitating appropriate seasonal decorations and attachments within the streetscape while ensuring public safety and avoiding damage to our apparatus. Compliance with this policy should ensure that applications are dealt with fairly and consistently across the areas of Dumfries and Galloway.

2 Policy statement

Dumfries and Galloway Council recognises the contribution festive lights and other seasonal decorations can make to enhancing our streetscapes and in creating a sense of place and we will cooperate with community groups, seeking to ensure that all such installations are safe and secure.

We will:

- **Provide clear guidance on what is acceptable in a “Festive-Lighting Manual” and a “Banners, Bunting and Attachments to Lighting Columns Manual.”**
- **Reject applications for installations which do not comply with the requirements in the manuals.**
- **Remove unauthorised installations and seek to recover costs from the responsible persons.**
- **Only consider applications for column-mounted festive lights within the main footfall areas of settlements.**
- **Engage with community councils or other community groups to consider need for strengthened columns when preparing column replacement programmes for relevant locations.**
- **Assist communities to investigate alternatives where column mounting is not appropriate or practicable.**

3 Scope

This policy shall apply to:

- All roads and street furniture adopted, or to be adopted, by Dumfries and Galloway Council.

4 Implementation and compliance

Dumfries and Galloway Council's "Festive-Lighting Manual" and "Banners, Bunting and Attachments to Lighting Columns Manual" contain detailed direction on the acceptable use of festive lights, banners, bunting and other attachments to street- lighting columns within Dumfries and Galloway along with guidance on how consent shall be obtained.

The Street Lighting Team will be responsible for updating the manuals to reflect changes in legislation and any other improvements or amendments considered to be needed.

The Street Lighting Team shall be responsible for ensuring that applications for festive lighting are assessed and processed in accordance with this policy, and that strengthened columns are considered at appropriate locations when replacing existing columns.