

Lighting Up of Buildings Policy

In October 2015, the Council, in an effort to ensure that all requests are dealt with in a consistent and fair manner, agreed to adopt the following procedures and criteria for handling requests to light up the Town Hall Arts Centre, Newtownards, and the Town Hall (The Castle), Bangor, to publish procedures and criteria on the Council's website; and to create and keep under review an approved list of days that the Council will mark. **(See subsequent decision overleaf relating to lighting up locations).**

The following lighting up procedures and criteria were agreed:-

1. The Council will light up the Town Hall Arts Centre, Newtownards and the Town Hall (The Castle), Bangor, in a particular colour, where practicably possible, in response to requests from organisations, charitable or other groups where the requests are deemed eligible (see point No 2).
2. Requests for lighting up buildings for the following purposes will be deemed as eligible:-
 - a. To raise awareness of charities nominated by the Mayor
 - b. To mark events directly organised or financially supported by the Council
 - c. To mark events not directly organised by the Council but which may be held wholly or in part in the Borough and be regarded as of significant benefit to the Borough from a tourism or promotional perspective (e.g. Giro d'Italia)
 - d. Charitable, community or other non-profit making organisations based in or with a significant connection to the Borough and which are celebrating a significant anniversary or occasion.
 - e. Recognised sporting teams or organisations with a specific connection to the Borough which have achieved a significant accolade (e.g. winning a national or international competition)
3. Requests to light up buildings on UN recognised days will, in the first instance, be brought to the Council for approval and will be marked annually thereafter and reviewed after a ten year period or until the Council decides to cease such practice.
4. Any requests which are not covered by the criteria outlined above, or are considered to be of a political or potentially controversial nature, will require the consideration and approval of the Council.
5. Requests must be received at least six weeks in advance of the date on which the buildings are to be illuminated, to allow for suitable technical preparations to be made and to give time for Council consideration of potentially controversial requests.
6. All requests will be screened for Section 75 purposes.

In May 2017, the above procedures and criteria were amended to add that:-

1. The Council does not light up buildings in response to world events (the reasons for this were detailed in a report).
2. Requests to light up buildings to mark national holidays will be processed via the Corporate Services Committee/Council structure and Equality screened accordingly.

Also in **May 2017**, it was agreed in a separate report to light Town Hall Arts Centre, Newtownards, and McKee Clock, Bangor (instead of Town Hall, (The Castle) Bangor) as a result of Public Realm works, as an LED system was now in operation at that location.