



**To: All Members of the Community Safety and Protection Committee  
(and any other Members who may wish to attend)**



The Protocol and Procedure for visitors attending meetings of Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority can be found by clicking [here](#) or on the Authority's website:

<http://www.merseyfire.gov.uk> - About Us > Fire Authority.

Tel: 0151 296 4000  
Extn: 4113 Kelly Kellaway

Your ref:

Our ref HP/NP

Date: 25 January 2021

Dear Sir/Madam,

You are invited to attend a meeting of the **COMMUNITY SAFETY AND PROTECTION COMMITTEE** to be held at **1.00 pm** on **TUESDAY, 2ND FEBRUARY, 2021** , remotely via Zoom.

The proceedings of the meeting by be viewed via the following link:

<https://youtu.be/mu6v2AiO6Ps>

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'K. Kellaway PP.' The signature is written in a cursive style.

Clerk to the Authority

Encl.

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**MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**  
**COMMUNITY SAFETY AND PROTECTION COMMITTEE**

**2 FEBRUARY 2021**

**AGENDA**

**Members**

Cllr Brian Kenny (Chair)  
Cllr Doreen Knight  
Cllr Emily Spurrell  
Cllr Paul Tweed  
Cllr Janet Grace  
Cllr Linda Maloney  
Cllr Lynne Thompson  
Cllr Edna Finneran  
Cllr Allan Brame

**1. Preliminary matters**

Members are requested to consider the identification of:

- a) declarations of interest by individual Members in relation to any item of business on the Agenda
- b) any additional items of business which the Chair has determined should be considered as matters of urgency; and
- c) items of business which may require the exclusion of the press and public during consideration thereof because of the possibility of the disclosure of exempt information.

**2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting (Pages 5 - 14)**

The Minutes of the Previous Meeting, held on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020, are submitted for approval as a correct record and for signature by the committee chair.

**3. Bonfire Report 2020 (Pages 15 - 32)**

To consider Report CFO/006/21 of the Chief Fire Officer, concerning the outcomes of the Bonfire Period 2020 and the continued challenges of deliberate secondary fires.

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If any Members have queries, comments or require additional information relating to any item on the agenda please contact Committee Services and we will endeavour to provide the information you require for the meeting. Of course this does not affect the right of any Member to raise questions in the meeting itself but it may assist Members in their consideration of an item if additional information is available.

#### Refreshments

Any Members attending on Authority business straight from work or for long periods of time, and require a sandwich, please contact Democratic Services, prior to your arrival, for arrangements to be made.

## MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

### COMMUNITY SAFETY AND PROTECTION COMMITTEE

1 SEPTEMBER 2020

#### MINUTES

**Present:** Cllr Brian Kenny (Chair) Councillors Doreen Knight, Emily Spurrell, Paul Tweed, Janet Grace, Linda Maloney, Bruce Berry, Edna Finneran and Lynne Thompson

**Also Present:**

**Apologies of absence were received from:**

#### **6. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

At the start of the meeting, the Chair of the Committee thanked everyone for attending and welcomed any members of the press or public who were observing the proceedings.

The Chair then introduced the meeting and provided all present with an overview of how this remote meeting would work and some housekeeping.

The Chair confirmed that all Members present could hear and be heard; and could see and be seen.

#### **1. Preliminary matters**

Members considered the identification of declarations of interest, any urgent additional items, and any business that may require the exclusion of the press and public.

Resolved that:

- a) no declarations of interest were made by individual Members in relation to any item of business on the Agenda
- b) no additional items of business to be considered as matters of urgency were determined by the Chair; and
- c) no items of business required the exclusion of the press and public during consideration thereof because of the possibility of the disclosure of exempt information.

*However, it was noted that Appendices C and D to Agenda Item 5 – “Heswall Refurbishment Project 2020”, contained EXEMPT information. Members were therefore advised that if any discussion was required around the content of those Appendices, press and public would need to be excluded, and the public link would be disconnected.*

## **2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The Minutes of the previous meeting of the Community Safety & Protection Committee, held on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2020, were approved as a correct record and for signature by the Chair.

## **3. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Annual Report 2019-20**

Members considered Report CFO/041/20 of the Chief Fire Officer, concerning the draft Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (ED&I) Annual Report, which contains an update on the progress made against the ED&I Action Plan 2017-20; and our ED&I objectives for 2017-2020.

Members were provided with an overview of the report, which demonstrates MFRA’s compliance with the Equality Act 2010 General Duty, and an update on the key outcomes delivered in the year, with regards to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.

It was highlighted to Members that the Equality Act 2010 Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) (S.149) states that in the exercise of their functions, all public authorities must have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

Members were also informed that in order for public authorities to demonstrate they are meeting the PSED, there are a number of specific duties which public bodies, including MF&RA, are required to carry out:

- a) Publish information to show their compliance with the Equality Duty, at least annually.
- b) Set and publish equality objectives, at least every 4 years.

Members attention was drawn to the ED&I Annual Report, attached at Appendix A.

They were advised that in supporting the discharge of that duty, the Diversity Networks have continued to be developed, which have now become an integral part of our work. Members were informed that the Diversity Networks are championed by a senior officer of the Service; and that the Networks are encouraged to comment on our policies and the way we conduct our business, which is directly fed back into the decisions that are made through the reporting process.

It was also highlighted to Members that during the last 12 month period, Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (E,D&I) Training, has been developed, which has allowed the Authority to continue to ensure that our staff are aware of the duties placed on us; and ensure that we are meeting that statutory responsibility.

Members were informed that work has also continued around positive action in recruitment. They were informed that recruitment is continuing, particularly from a firefighter perspective, with around 60 individuals being recruited this year. It was stated to Members that the importance and significance of recruiting through positive action, is clear and apparent.

Another area highlighted to Members, was around further developing our work around knowing our communities. They were advised that this enables us to ensure that the activities we undertake as a FRS, on behalf of the Authority, are focused on tackling the inequalities that exist, particularly across Merseyside. Members were also informed that those inequalities are being addressed, with some of the activities around home safety, really focusing in on the most socially deprived areas of Merseyside.

Reference was also made to Community Impact Funds, which provide firefighters with some additional funding to direct towards their community safety plans, enabling them to engage their communities locally based on the risk within.

Members were advised that the Equality Objectives remain unchanged for the forthcoming year, which are as follows:

- **Equality Objective 1:** - Create a strong cohesive organisation that is positive to rising to the future challenges we face.
- **Equality Objective 2:** - Ensure that people from diverse communities receive equitable services that meet their needs.
- **Equality Objective 3:** - Reducing fires and other incidents amongst the vulnerable protected groups.
- **Equality Objective 4:** - To ensure that staff are better equipped to deliver their roles whilst showing due regard to the need to:
  - Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act.
  - Advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who don't.
- **Equality Objective 5:** - To continue to aspire to achieving excellence, or equivalent in a Fire and Rescue Service Equality Framework.

With regards to Objective 1, it was highlighted to Members that in relation to the recruitment of female firefighters, the percentage of female firefighters in MFRA is now 10.9%, which is an increase from 9% in 2019. Members were advised that the average for the other comparable Metropolitan FRS's, is 7.3%, whilst the average across all FRS's in England is 6.8%.

It was highlighted to Members that MFRA are also performing well in relation to ethnicity. They were informed that for our operational and support staff, the percentage of BAME employees is 5.9%, which is above the Merseyside BAME population, which is 5.5%.

Members were informed that the chart on page 27, extracted from the Inspection Report, shows where MFRA sit in relation to the percentage point difference between service's BAME residential population and its BAME firefighters. It was highlighted that MFRA are second only to the Isle of Scilly, which is somewhat of a misnomer.

It was highlighted to Members that again, this is a real positive with regards to our positive action, which has resulted in those outcomes.

Members attention was also drawn to the positives around flexible working arrangements put in place. They were informed that MFRA have robust policies in place, to ensure that we are meeting the demands placed on individuals, dependent on their circumstances.

It was highlighted to Members that there have been a total of 15 flexible working requests during the period, all of which have been accepted by the Flexible Working Panel. Out of those 15 requests, Members were advised that 10 were made by females, and 5 by males.

Information was highlighted to Members around the Gender Pay Gap. They were informed that the mean gender pay gap nationally for 2019 was 15.3%, whilst for MFRA, it was 11.4%, which is lower than it had been previously, at 11.7%.

It was also highlighted that the median gender pay gap for MFRA is 5.16%, against an average UK median of 8.9% during 2019.

In relation to Equality Objective 2, and Home Fire Safety approaches, Members were reminded of decisions made previously around addressing inequalities around age and around deprivation.

With regards to Equality Objective 3, Members were informed that we are continuing to target vulnerability factors, with examples provided within the report around our work with dementia teams and smoking cessation groups.

In relation to Equality Objective 4, Members were informed that staff are currently in the process of receiving E,D&I Refresher Training and training around unconscious bias, as referenced within the Inspectorate Report.

Members were also informed that in respect of Equality Objective 5, MFRA continue to strive to be the best FRS in relation to E,D&I.

A question was raised by Members in relation to flexible working and whether further changes may be required as a result of Covid-19.



Members were advised that flexible working has always been in place, but what is currently being developed, which will be brought back to Members shortly, is an Agile Working Policy, which is somewhat different to family friendly/ flexible working arrangements. Members were informed that lessons have been learnt from Covid-19, during which a number of staff worked from home; and officers have been looking at how more agile working could be facilitated in the future. It was stressed to Members that agile working is not necessarily home working, and it is important to ensure that effectiveness and efficiency is maintained, whilst recognising that as an organisation, we can probably operate in a more agile way.

A further question was raised by Members in relation to the Gender Pay Gap around women progressing into senior roles; and what the process is for promotion.

Members were advised that MFRA have been recruiting in large numbers recently, resulting in more female firefighters coming into the Service. However, it was explained that the newest recruits are on development rates of pay, which are set Nationally; whilst longstanding firefighters on competent rates of pay, are predominantly male. Members were assured that this will change over time, as female firefighters progress from being in development to being competent. Members were informed that this development is linked to the Apprenticeship Standard, which is a 24-month Apprenticeship.

However, Members were advised that once a firefighter has completed the Apprenticeship Standard and are deemed competent in the firefighter role, progression from that point, is not predicated on any length of time. It was highlighted to Members that some firefighters may feel that they need to have served a specific amount of time before they are ready to progress, whilst others are more comfortable to push forward and see how they perform. It was felt that males are often more self-assured to push themselves, whilst female firefighters generally, seem to prefer to be absolutely sure that they are ready before they seek to progress; and it was acknowledged that there is some work to be done around this, organisationally. Members were assured that the organisation has recruited a large number of female firefighters recently, and officers have every confidence that they are capable of senior roles within the organisation.

Members were also informed that some of the restrictions associated with the Gateway development process, have recently been removed, which mean that individuals can enter the Gateway when they feel ready to do so, rather than opening up the Gateway at a specific point on an annual basis. This means that individuals can enter when they feel ready, or when the organisation feels that they are ready to progress.

Members were also advised that a lot of work is being undertaken around accelerated progression, not just for females, but for anyone across the organisation that has the right skills and attributes to progress rapidly through the service.

It was re-iterated to Members that there is no requirement to serve a specific length of time before an individual can progress. It was also highlighted that firefighters within MFRS, gain far more exposure to incidents than firefighters in

other parts of the Country, which enables them to gain the necessary competencies at firefighter level quite easily, with progression from there being around gaining managerial competency.

Members were reassured that as an organisation, there is a significant amount of development and support in place for individuals who wish to progress.

It was also stated that should Members have any suggestions around how this could be progressed further, Officers would be more than happy to take on board those suggestions and build them into the relevant processes.

Members were also advised that they would be more than welcome to observe what is currently in place; and make any suggestions for further improvement.

A further question was raised by Members regarding HFSC ethnicity and equality data; and whether we have information around when individuals have refused a HFSC and if there are any patterns emerging.

Members were advised that previously, the Authority had a number of Bi-Lingual Advocates, to better represent the communities of Merseyside. As a result, a whole raft of barriers and obstacles were overcome to enable MFRS to gain access to those harder to reach communities.

Members were assured that officers would go back and review the current data, to see if there are any communities, with a new or emergent reluctance to allow our employees into their homes. Members were advised that this is caveated against a backdrop of Covid-19, as all communities are somewhat reticent to let us across the threshold at present, albeit it is anticipated that this will dissipate over time. However, it was confirmed that officers will re-visit this, to see if there is additional work required within a specific community; and if the opportunity avails itself, officers will look into having representation in some way, from any such community, to assist with gaining access.

The Authority's Equality & Diversity Champion advised Members of an LGA event they had attended recently; and advised that they would prepare a presentation for Members around the relevant learning points.

Members were also informed that the Asian Fire Service has been asked to undertake a peer review of MFRS specifically in relation to the work being undertaken in relation to equality and diversity, they have been asked to look at what we are doing, how we are doing it; and what can be improved on.

Members Resolved that:

The report attached, be approved for publication on the Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service (MFRS) website in order to demonstrate Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority's (MFRA) commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion and in order to meet its Public Sector Equality Duties.

#### **4. SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN 2020-21 APRIL TO JUNE REPORT**

Members considered Report CFO/044/20 of the Chief Fire Officer, concerning the scrutiny of performance against the objectives and the performance targets/outcomes as set out in the Service Delivery Plan 2019/20 for the period April to June 2020.

Members were advised that through the Functional Planning process, the Service Delivery Plan and Station Plans, the key performance indicators that affect the public in relation to the work that we undertake, are identified.

Some of the key headlines in relation to performance, were highlighted to Members.

Members were informed that broadly, performance is strong. They were advised that in terms of the indicators relating to attendance at fires, those indicators are predominantly green across the board, indicating that performance is ahead of schedule and better than it has been previously.

It was highlighted to Members that unfortunately, there have been 4 fatal fire deaths, which occurred within a very short space of time, during the lockdown period. Members were advised that questions were asked Nationally, as to whether there is a correlation between the number of fires being experienced Nationally and the number of fires experienced within Merseyside, however a correlation between the number of fires and the Covid -19 lockdown period, was not found Nationally. Members were informed however, that one of the fire deaths in particular, related directly to an individual burning refuse, which spread from the garden to the property itself. They were advised that in the opinion of officers, that individual would not have been burning refuse ordinarily, therefore there was a direct link to Covid-19 and the circumstances of lockdown. It was highlighted to Members that we have had 4 fire deaths over that period; and when compared with 4 fires deaths for the previous year and the year before that, those incidents occurred over a very short period of time. However fortunately, that trend has now diminished.

It was confirmed to Members that although the number of fire deaths has increased, fires in the broader sense, have remained under target; and therefore, performance has been better than previous years.

Another area highlighted to Members, was around the total number of Special Service calls attended. Members were advised that this indicator is for quality assurance purposes, for the Authority to review and remain cognisant of. Members were advised that the number of calls relating to Special Services that have been responded to, has increased; and it was noted that attendance at Special Services can look and feel like we are supporting other Services. For example, NWS would have required MFRS to attend more significant incidents over the period, which has resulted in an increase in the number of Special Services calls attended.

A further area highlighted to Members, was around sickness absence. Members were advised that in the context of Covid-19, it would be expected that sickness

absence would have increased significantly. However, the opposite has occurred at present, with sickness levels currently being 3.11%, in comparison to the target of 4%. Members were advised that this is particularly good when compared to last years' figure of 3.63%, which was prior to the Covid-19 pandemic. They were also advised that when Covid related sickness absence is removed from the statistics, the sickness absence level would be as low as 2.54%.

It was highlighted to Members, that this is due to staff making themselves available throughout the pandemic. They were advised that some staff have been able to work from home, however those who deliver risk critical training have maintained the training centre; and those staff on the frontline in Prevention, Protection and Operational Response roles, have continued to operate throughout the pandemic. Therefore, sickness levels being so low is testament to the commitment of those individuals, to the people of Merseyside.

A question was asked by Members around how our statistics compare with other FRS', for example, did other Services see the same increases in deliberate dwelling fires during the pandemic. Members commented that it would be a useful comparison, to see if the same issue is reflected across all FRS', or if it is an issue specific to Merseyside.

Members were informed that benchmarking data with other FRS' is available, however extracting the information from the Governmental Incident Recording system, is not as effective as we would like it to be, hence why reporting is focused on our data. However, Members were advised that officers would keep trying to provide the benchmarking data.

Members were also informed that as a result of the lead responsibilities that MFRA have, the Chief Fire Officer is well sighted on what is occurring at a National level, the impacts of the pandemic on the number of calls received, and how we compare with others. Members were advised that in relation to the number of accidental dwelling fires resulting in fire deaths, MFRA are somewhat of an outlier, along with a couple of other FRS'. They were informed that initially, officers thought that there may have been a trend, with a number of FRS' seeing an increase in the number of fire deaths over the lockdown period, however that did not bear true. As such, Members were advised that the issue is just being considered from a Merseyside perspective.

With regards to deliberate fires, Members were advised that again, MFRA have more than most FRS', however we do a massive amount of work to reduce the number; and we have seen significant progress in that respect.

However, Members were also advised that in light of Covid-19, in areas where inequalities exist, they experience more fires, more deaths relating to Covid-19 and so on. Therefore, Members were advised that the focus for MFRA in the broader sense, is how we can tackle the inequalities that exist, some of which are health inequalities. As such, it was highlighted that MFRA need to look across Merseyside at how we work with partners to ensure that by helping to achieve their priorities, we are also tackling ours, albeit more upstream. A further question was raised by Members, around the communication of advice around fire safety, given the increase in certain types of incidents.

Members were advised that the Corporate Communications Team have done a fantastic job over the period, around identifying emergent issues and communicating really effectively with the community. For example, in the early stages when refuse was not being collected and people were burning extensively in their gardens, there was a whole raft of false alarm – good intent calls received; and a good amount of communication was issued around that issue. They were also advised that during the hot weather, there was an increase in fires relating to the use of BBQ's, where people were going out into open spaces and using BBQ's, but not disposing of them adequately. Members were advised that lots of communications and safety messages were also issued around that problem.

Members were advised that more recently, there has been a great deal of communication issued around the vulnerability and isolation of individuals who were shielding, and ensuring that they are still receiving the care and support required; and also, that they have working smoke alarms.

Members were assured that a whole raft of information has been issued via Corporate Communications, via social media, but also via the press and media.

Members Resolved that:

The attached reports, be approved for publication on the Authority's Website.

**5. Heswall Refurbishment Project**

Members considered Report CFO/047/20 of the Chief Fire Officer, concerning the planned refurbishment and development of Heswall Fire & Rescue station.

Members were provided with an overview of the report, which confirmed that the costs associated with the refurbishment, are contained within; and are in line with our Estate Asset Management Plans previously considered by the Authority.

It was also noted that Heswall operates on the Low Level Activity and Risk (LLAR) duty system.

Members Resolved that:

- (a) The outcome of the formal re-tendering process, be noted.
- (b) The continuation of the planned refurbishment of the Fire Station, be approved.
- (c) The scope of works, be noted as excluding the following items of from the proposed refurbishment on the basis of affordability:
  - i. New mist / sprinkler system.
  - ii. New external canopy.
  - iii. New external storage building.

(d) The award of the contract to Novus Property Solutions for the sum of £300,761.62, be approved.

Close

Date of next meeting Tuesday, 2 February 2021

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>MERSEYSIDE FIRE &amp; RESCUE AUTHORITY</b>			
<b>MEETING OF THE:</b>	<b>COMMUNITY SAFETY &amp; PROTECTION COMMITTEE</b>		
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>2<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY 2021</b>	<b>REPORT NO:</b>	<b>CFO/006/21</b>
<b>PRESENTING OFFICER</b>	<b>CHIEF FIRE OFFICER</b>		
<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:</b>	<b>AM GARY OAKFORD</b>	<b>REPORT AUTHOR:</b>	<b>GM BEN RYDER</b>
<b>OFFICERS CONSULTED:</b>	<b>MIKE BURATTI- COMMUNITY SAFETY COORDINATOR</b> <b>JOHN FIELDING – BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE MANAGER</b> <b>JOE CUNLIFFE – STATION MANAGER</b> <b>LAUREN WOODWARD – STATION MANAGER</b> <b>PROTECTION OFFICERS</b>		
<b>TITLE OF REPORT:</b>	<b>BONFIRE REPORT 2020</b>		

<b>APPENDICES:</b>	<b>APPENDIX A:</b>  <b>APPENDIX B:</b> <b>APPENDIX C:</b>	<b>MFRS OPS INFORMATION NOTE</b> <b>27.20 OPERATIONAL GUIDANCE FOR CREWS DURING BONFIRE PERIOD</b> <b>BONFIRE SUMMARY REPORT</b> <b>SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN FIGURES</b>
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### Purpose of Report

1. To inform Members of the outcomes of Bonfire period 2020 and the continued challenge of deliberate secondary fires.

### Recommendation

2. That Members note the content of the report and the impact that the COVID 19 pandemic had on the delivery of the Bonfire Plan 2020.

### Introduction and Background

3. This Bonfire Period for 2020 seen a slight increase of 25 incidents across Merseyside in comparison to year 2019 that the service seen its lowest reported figures.

4.

District	2019	2020	Difference	% Difference
Knowsley	43 (2.9)	33 (2.2)	-10 (-0.7)	-23.3%
Liverpool	116 (2.3)	126 (2.5)	10 (0.2)	8.6%
<i>Liverpool North</i>	77	77	0	0.0%
<i>Liverpool South</i>	39	49	10	25.6%
Sefton	19 (0.7)	32 (1.2)	13 (0.5)	68.4%
St Helens	35 (1.9)	31 (1.7)	-4 (-0.2)	-11.4%
Wirral	30 (0.9)	46 (1.4)	16 (0.5)	53.3%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>243 (1.7)</b>	<b>268 (1.9)</b>	<b>25 (0.2)</b>	<b>10.3%</b>

5. It is recognised that a significant increase in calls for service is received over the Halloween and Bonfire period. This is directly linked to a rise in anti-social behaviour and sale of fireworks over the period. In order to limit the demand, an extensive plan for the period was formulated to help reduce calls for service, the numbers of fires and instances of anti-social behaviour which adversely affect Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service and the communities of Merseyside.

6. The Prevention Directorate planning for Bonfire 2020 commenced in June with regular meetings being convened with key partners. Merseyside Police as part of Operation Banger led the multi-agency operation which co-ordinates Police, Fire and Local Authority activity over the Halloween and Bonfire period. This includes monthly Silver meetings chaired by Merseyside Police at the JCC, Bridle Road. These monthly meetings involved all Police Commanders responsible for implementation of Operation Banger and representatives from MF&RS and other agencies such as North West Ambulance Service.
7. This year MFRA issued 182 licences from retailers to store and sell fireworks. Officers inspected premises to ensure suitable and sufficient action had been undertaken by the retailers to comply with safe storage and guidance given on the selling of fireworks. A further inspection and compliance programme was undertaken by Protection Officers for 74 premises including complaints resulting in the following outcomes, over 50kg of fireworks were seized with a value of £4000. 3 other premises were visited which resulted in recommendations being made to the license holder.
8. MFRS Corporate Communications Team produced a Bonfire Communications Strategy including a series of infographics, a new Bonfire Leaflet and 2 new videos were created in relation to the dangers of issuing fireworks and also regarding the sales and purchase of fireworks. The campaign included press releases promoting the key messages at key times over the reporting period. The City Safe Board paid for a social media campaign which enabled Corporate Communications to geographically target key safety messages via social media to high demand areas and to social media users who do not routinely follow MFRS social media outlets. Members of the public were also encouraged to report bonfire debris via our social media outlets and website which was monitored by Corporate Communications.
9. From Monday 19th October until Friday 6th November, MFRS had the use of 5 tipper trucks across Merseyside. These were staffed by the Prevention Directorate (Home Safety Advocates and Apprentices) in order to remove the build-up of bonfire material. Our staff removed over 52 tonnes of material.

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### **Impact of COVID19**

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10. The Liverpool City Region moved into the Very High Tier 3 Level of COVID alert from 14<sup>th</sup> October 2020. Full UK Lockdown was initiated on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2020.
11. The COVID19 pandemic had a significant impact on organised firework displays. The traditional displays, e.g. River of Light and Sparks in the Park in St Helens were cancelled, these would under normal operating conditions attracted a combined attendance in excess of 120,000 people, a range of other smaller community led displays were also cancelled. This led to a significant increase in the domestic use of fireworks.
12. A range of other diversionary activity that would under normal circumstances support the reduction of Anti-Social Behaviour during the bonfire period were also significantly disrupted due to the pandemic with only limited online diversionary activities (such as virtual DJ's).
13. In most cases MFRS staff were not able to have a physical presence in schools. To overcome this the message to young people was delivered through Corporate Communications who created an animation that was sent to schools electronically along with an electronic bonfire leaflet for school websites and parent/guardian apps.



14. Due to the COVID19 pandemic, MFRA adapted its normal tolerant approach, which is to risk assess the bonfire allowing it to burn providing it is safe and appropriate to do so with members of the community observing safely. This year our adopted approach was to extinguish the bonfire(s) to reduce social gatherings and limit the associated spread of the virus through community transmission – a public health approach.
15. MFRS crews used the “4E” model in their approach to dealing with the public. The “4E” model was adapted from the policing model of Engage, Explain, Encourage and Enforce. Enforce was replaced with Extinguish to suit MFRS priorities. Appendix A gives further explanation.
16. Merseyside Police supported fire crews by attending fires to disperse people allowing fire crews to extinguish bonfires safely. Requests by Merseyside Police to extinguish bonfires were “tagged” to reflect that the request was made as a result of the police enforcing COVID19 guidance. 43 incidents were tagged by crews to reflect this. A direct result of changing from the tolerant approach resulted in an increase in the number of deliberate secondary fires that were extinguished by MFRA in the reporting period 4th to 7th November 2020.

## Performance

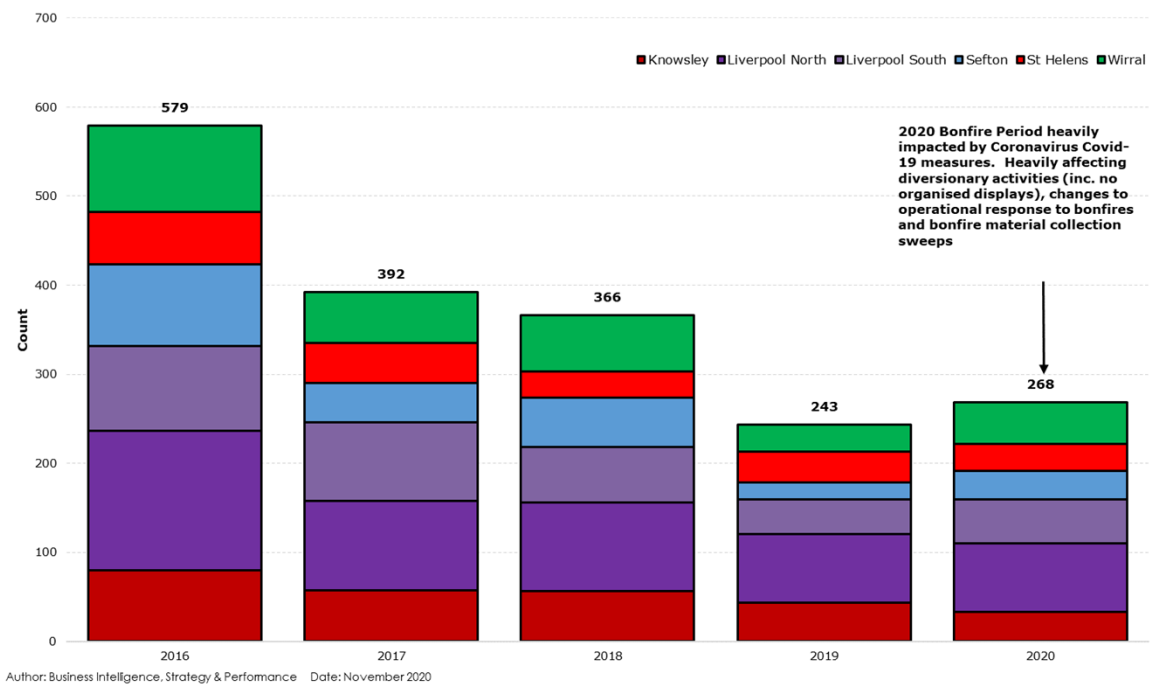
17. Despite the unique challenges the Region and Service were faced this year performance has been maintained in line with the recent reductions experienced over the period and cumulatively for the year (2019/20).

Year		Deliberate Fires	Secondary	% Difference
2018/19	Bonfire Period	243		
2019/20	Bonfire Period	268**		10% increase
2018/19	(April - October)	1891		
2019/20	(April - October)	1982		5% increase

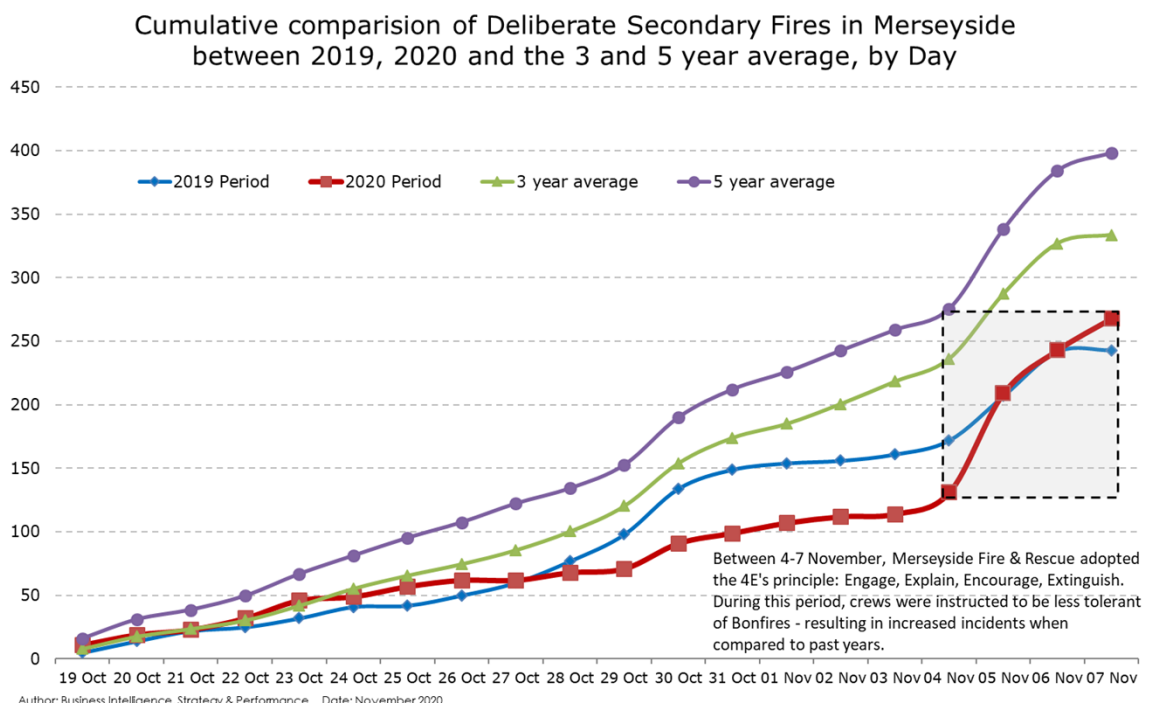
\*\*43 incidents were due to Public Health Approach

18. This is attributable to the exemplary work done by our staff across our communities. This level of performance has not been experienced by all agencies for example please see Police ASB data below.

	ASB 2019	ASB 2020	% Difference
April - October	18936	28788	52% increase
19 October - 7 November	2598	3856	48% increase



19. This chart identifies that during the 2020 bonfire period the number of deliberate secondary fire incidents attended by Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service was 268. This is a minor increase of 25 incidents (10.3%) from 2019. When compared historically to the 2016 period there has still been an overall reduction of 311 incidents (-53.7%). Over the 5-year period, 2020 saw the second lowest total overall.



20. This chart provides a cumulative analysis of deliberate secondary fire incidents through the 2020 period, contrasting it with: 2019, as well as the 3 and 5 year averages. The chart shows that though there was an increase between the 2020 and 2019 bonfire periods, when compared to historical averages, performance was still positive.

21. The 4 E's approach particularly affected the above highlighted period as crews were expected to extinguish all bonfires. 43 incidents during the bonfire reporting period have been tagged "Bonfire C-18". These were incidents that during normal conditions (tolerant approach) would not have been extinguished.

22. The Service attended a number incidents that involved the misuse of Fireworks.

District	2019	2020	Difference
<b>Wirral</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-3</b>
<b>Liverpool</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>+6</b>
<i>Liverpool North</i>	3	7	+4
<i>Liverpool South</i>	2	4	+2
<b>Sefton</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-2</b>
<b>Knowsley</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>St Helens</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-1</b>
<b>Merseyside Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>0</b>

23. The paid for Social media campaign, which was carried out over the bonfire period, highlighted an estimated reach of 1,594,802 people utilising Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. We believe this had a positive impact on the number of incidents that were attended. It must also be noted that our Corporate Communications Team worked with Police and Local Authority Communications Teams, in relation to social media to ensure consistency in key safety messages. Social media was also utilised to gather intelligence and on the Wirral, intelligence received in relation to an organised firework/bonfire event lead to Merseyside Police issuing three £10,000 fines to the event organisers.

### Equality and Diversity Implications

24. An EIA was completed and available on the portal.
25. Chart 5\* graphically illustrates the link between deliberate secondary fire incidents and levels of deprivation. The chart clearly identifies that more deliberate fire incidents occur in areas of high deprivation as opposed to areas of least deprivation.
26. Table 5\* provides a historical look at the top 10 wards for deliberate secondary fires over the last 10 years. The table shows evidence that certain wards consistently see high numbers of incidents from year to year, particularly the wards of: Kirkdale, Everton, Speke-Garston, Clubmoor and Birkenhead & Tranmere (These are all deprived areas).
27. This enabled us to target resources to those areas in the build up to the main reporting period to remove fly tipping and engaging with young people with the Street Intervention Team in high demand wards (targeted youth intervention).

\*these tables are contained within the Summary Report for Incident Activity during 2020 Bonfire Period produced by Business Intelligence Manager John Fielding

### Staff Implications

28. A number of directorates and departments contributed significantly during the bonfire period. This provided the Prevention Directorate with the ability to deliver the high performance with thanks to

- Home Safety – provided additional staffing.
- Youth Engagement - provided staffing & consultation with Children & Young People.
- Protection – firework legislation compliance and enforcement.
- Corporate Communications - Communications and Media Strategy.

- Legal – advice and guidance (RIPA, 4E's, Fireworks)
  - Operational Response – Ops Info Note, Advice and guidance, High visibility patrols, engagement from stations and adoption of 4 E model
  - Operational Preparedness – Covid tag, Ops Info Note
  - An additional IIT officer was available at times of high demand on the key nights.
  - Fire Control - additional control room operators were utilised due to increased high demand over key nights.
29. MFRS staff supported the Trojan Fire Appliance, this was staffed on key nights (31<sup>st</sup> October and the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> November 2020). The Trojan Fire Appliance is a covert fire appliance staffed by MFRS and Merseyside Police (see paragraph 46).
30. The Liverpool, Knowsley, Sefton and Wirral Street Intervention Teams worked throughout the reporting period in high demand areas to engage with young people and local communities about the associated dangers of the period including social distancing.
31. The Operational Support Room was utilised to support co-ordination of prevention, protection and response assets.

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### **Legal Implications**

32. The provisions of The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Local COVID-19 Alert Level) (Very High) (England) Regulations 2020 come into force on 14 October 2020 with Liverpool City Region were placed into the Very High Tier 3 Level which enforced the tightest restrictions. This was followed shortly after by a further [Full UK Lockdown](#) enacted on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2020. The impact of the Regulations are detailed within the report however the Authority continued to respond to incidents and extinguish bonfires within its powers under the Fire & Rescue Services Act 2004,
33. Regulatory Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) training has previously been given to key staff prior to the bonfire period. The Authority fully complied with its legal requirements when engaging the Trojan Fire Appliance to assist during this period while other partners exercised their own legal powers to help achieve the proposed bonfire plan.
34. To satisfy the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, all staff during the tipper tucks have received a driver validation by the Driving School and all staff on the tipper trucks are manual handling trained. The appropriate insurance provisions were in place to ensure the trucks could be utilised to their most effective capacity.
35. Under the Explosives Regulations 2014 and the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, Protection Officers as the enforcing authority exercised their powers and visited retailers storing fireworks for sale to ensure compliance with legislation.

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### **Financial Implications & Value for Money**

36. All costs for delivering the bonfire plan were met from planned budgets or supported by external partners.

37. The Liverpool Citysafe Board provided additional funding (totalling £6000). This enabled the hire of a tipper truck, a social media campaign and additional Street Intervention Team deployments.
38. Wirral Council, Sefton Council, and St Helens Council hired tipper trucks to be used by MFRS during the bonfire period. Knowsley Council loaned a tipper truck to MFRS.

### **Risk Management, Health & Safety, and Environmental Implications**

39. In considering the risk management implications for staff operating within Merseyside during key nights, a decision was made to utilise the Operational Support Room. This allowed for monitoring and safe management of staff across Merseyside who were not riding fire appliances.
40. In order to reduce the impact and noticeable increase of fly tipping, tipper trucks operated pre bonfire to remove hazardous waste or combustible materials to minimise the impact on the environment and the safety of MFRS staff.
41. A post Bonfire night sweep took place on the morning of 6th November. This involved fire crews patrolling their station areas in order to extinguish smouldering bonfires in known fire locations. Appliances remained available for redirection by Fire Control. This enabled tipper trucks to remove remaining debris from bonfires.
42. The Bonfire plan identified 6 key nights where demands on MFRS were anticipated to increase, these were 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> October and the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> November.
43. The Trojan Fire Appliance was stood up proactively on 30<sup>th</sup> October and 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> November supported by Merseyside Police. During its deployment, the Trojan Fire Appliance was mobilised to 4 incidents. The Trojan Fire Appliance carried out high visibility patrols of high demand areas and also visited Fire Stations to engage with Fire Crews who had recently experienced violence at work incidents to explain the concept of the Trojan Fire Appliance.
44. The 4 E model was adopted to mitigate large gatherings in order to mitigate the spread of the virus and to aid the adherence of COVID19 legislation.

### **Contribution to Our Mission: *Safer Stronger Communities – Safe Effective Firefighters***

45. The delivery of the Bonfire Plan aims to limit and reduce the threat of the number of Anti-Social Behaviour incidents and deliberate fires across Merseyside.
46. Its aim is to reduce the risk of attacks on firefighters through education and engagement. It also promotes key safety messages to allow the public to have a safe Halloween and bonfire period free from harm and injury.
47. The plan prepared for the anticipated increase in calls for the service by working with partners and key stakeholders; prevent crime and fires which impact on MFRS response to incidents; protect the most vulnerable who may be victims of fire or firework incidents plus educating young persons; and pursue those who attack firefighters or staff of MFRS.
48. 4 E model in relation to bonfires. A good example of this was on 4<sup>th</sup> November on Meadow Crescent, Woodchurch, Wirral. A fire crew was called to a large bonfire event which included a large gathering of people. Operational Crews, supported by Merseyside Police adopted the 4 E approach which resulted the

Merseyside Police dispersing the large crowd to enable Fire Crews to extinguish the fire.

49. MFRS through the pre-planning and interventions noted in this report maintained its attendance standard to life risk incidents throughout the bonfire period.

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## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

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None

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## **GLOSSARY OF TERMS**

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<b>IIT</b>	Incident Investigation Team
<b>JCC</b>	Joint Control Centre (Bridle Road)
<b>MFRA</b>	Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority
<b>MFRS</b>	Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service
<b>OIC</b>	Officer in Charge
<b>OSR</b>	Operational Support Room
<b>RIPA</b>	Regulatory Investigative Powers Act
<b>S&amp;P</b>	Strategy and Performance
<b>SHQ</b>	Service Headquarters
<b>SPOC</b>	Single Point of Contact

## APPENDIX A

### MFRS OPS INFIRMATION NOTE 27.20 OPERATIONAL GUIDANCE FOR CREWS DURING BONFIRE PERIOD



## MFRS Ops Information Note

Owner:	Prevention Department	Title:	Operational guidance for crews over bonfire period
Date:	27/10/2020		
Expiry Date:	12/11/2020	Ref No:	27.20

### TARGET AUDIENCE:

<i>Distribution List:</i>	<i>Info</i>
All MFRS	
Ops Crews	✓
Prevention	✓
Protection	✓
Support staff	
Principal Officers	✓

<i>Distribution List:</i>	<i>Info</i>
Senior officers	✓
Marine Rescue Unit	
Fire Control	✓
Training & Development Academy	✓
Operational Intelligence/ Operational Planning & Policy Team	✓

### INFORMATION: NEW RESTRICTIONS FROM NOVEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup> 2020

[COVID-19 case numbers](#) are rising rapidly across the whole of the UK and in other countries. We must act now to control the spread of the virus. The single most important action we can all take, in fighting coronavirus, is to stay at home, to protect the NHS and save lives.

When we reduce our day-to-day contact with other people, we will reduce the spread of the infection. That is why, from Thursday 5 November until Wednesday 2 December, the Government is taking the following action:

1. Requiring people to stay at home, except for specific purposes.
2. Preventing gathering with people you do not live with, except for specific purposes.
3. Closing certain businesses and venues.

These new measures have been carefully judged to achieve the maximum reduction in growth in the number of cases, preventing the NHS from being overwhelmed, whilst ensuring that schools, colleges and universities stay open and that as many people as possible continue to work.

Until Thursday 5 November, the relevant [Local Covid Alert Level](#) measures will continue to apply in the area where you live. From Thursday the national restrictions replace the local restrictions in your area. No new areas will move in the LCAL Very High restrictions between now and Thursday.

The new measures will apply nationally for four weeks up to Wednesday 2 December. At the end of the period, we will look to return to a regional approach, based on the latest data.

Complying with the new measures will help limit the spread of coronavirus, reduce the impact on the NHS and save lives. They will be underpinned by law which will make clear about what you must and must not do from 5 November. The relevant authorities, including the police, will have powers to enforce the law – including through fines and dispersing gatherings.

In previous years, [Service Instruction 0641](#) has stated that MFRS personnel will adopt a tolerant approach to bonfires over the traditional Bonfire period celebrations between the period 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> November. MF&RS may allow bonfires to burn after a Dynamic Risk Assessment and provided it is safe and appropriate to do so. This year the tolerant approach has been adapted in line with Merseyside Police's 4 E's approach in order to comply with the current Liverpool City Region restrictions. These are as follows:

**Engage** – Operational Crews should speak to people and try to establish their awareness and understanding of the situation. They may ask people about their circumstances if they are out in public. Staff should give people the opportunity to express their views, listen and take people's responses into account.

**Explain** – Operational Crews should try to educate people about any personal risks they are taking, they will explain the social distancing regulations and highlight the responsibilities we all share. MFRS staff should treat people with dignity and respect. Staff should highlight their trustworthy motives by explaining wider social factors, such as the risks to public health and the NHS by not sticking to social distancing.

**Encourage** – Operational Crews may need to guide individuals, suggesting they return home. Staff can encourage people to act reasonably, emphasising that staying alert and safe (social distancing) saves lives. They demonstrate consistency in their approach and are willing to explain why they are requesting a certain course of action.

**Extinguish** – If necessary and safe to do so, Operational Crews can discharge their duties under the Fire & Rescue Services Act 2004, Section 44 (1) (a) to extinguish the fire.

When attending incidents during the bonfire period, Crew/Watch Managers must exercise a decision making process on the approach to incidents to maintain the Health, Safety and Welfare of operational personnel.



When attending fires on public land, crews should utilise the first 3E's to provide a rationale to persons present prior to extinguishing the fire. This approach should also be communicated when attending fires on private property, crews should make an assessment of the risk and deal with accordingly.

If when returning to station the OIC feels there was a breach of Covid guidelines they should report this to Merseyside Police via the following [link](#)

Any bonfire between 1<sup>st</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> November that would have historically been deemed safe due to responsible adults being present, should be extinguished when there is a clear breach of social distancing in relation to Covid guidance. In these circumstances the 4E approach should be utilised to engage with the public. If the 4E approach is not effective, crews should withdraw to a place of safety and request Merseyside Police via Fire Control highlighting the requirement for them to attend to disperse gatherings of people in order for the fire to be extinguished.

The OIC's should provide Fire control with an informative message with rationale for extinguishing fire e.g. danger to property, fire on public land etc.

The OIC must when completing their stop code add the tag "Bonfire Covid" in the comments box via MDT. This approach is being adopted in support of Covid restrictions in place at this time.

**The following should be reported as an emergency and police assistance should be requested via Fire control.**

- There is a threat to life
- There is a risk that a situation could escalate to violence
- There is a risk of serious damage to property
- There is a serious offence in progress
- There is or there could be a serious disruption to the public

**ACTIONS:**

Crews are to adopt above guidance and familiarise themselves fully with [SOP 5.4.0 Civil Disorder](#)

<b>For Further Information Contact:</b>	Prevention Department
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This is a summary of the 2020 bonfire period. It was recognised that current challenges relating to Covid-19 would have impacted on some of the services and plans that MFRS and our partners would have implemented in the past and we therefore endeavoured to ensure contingencies and alternative resources were put in place to address any areas of risk.

Over the period, the service experienced a 10.3% increase in our attendance at deliberate ASB fires (deliberate secondary fires). This is being compared to 2019's figures for the bonfire period from 19th October to 7th November.

This year, we attended and dealt with 268 deliberate secondary fires.

Planning started for the bonfire period back in June with regular meetings being convened with partner agencies.

Plans were formulated in each Local Authority area which were brought together to create the service wide bonfire plan and also Merseyside Police's Operation Banger plan.

The ownership of the district plans by each Arson Officer allowed for local plans to be devised which were specific to the local communities for whom we serve and despite challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic, the figures clearly reflect the hard work undertaken and the collaboration with partner agencies.

## Merseyside Statistical Summary

### Deliberate Secondary Fires

Comparison of incidents attended by district, between 2019 and 2020 bonfire periods (with incidents per 10,000 population)<sup>1</sup>

District	2019	2020	Difference	% Difference
Knowsley	43 (2.9)	33 (2.2)	-10 (-0.7)	-23.3%
Liverpool	116 (2.3)	126 (2.5)	10 (0.2)	8.6%
<i>Liverpool North</i>	77	77	0	0.0%
<i>Liverpool South</i>	39	49	10	25.6%
Sefton	19 (0.7)	32 (1.2)	13 (0.5)	68.4%
St Helens	35 (1.9)	31 (1.7)	-4 (-0.2)	-11.4%
Wirral	30 (0.9)	46 (1.4)	16 (0.5)	53.3%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>243 (1.7)</b>	<b>268 (1.9)</b>	<b>25 (0.2)</b>	<b>10.3%</b>

**N.B. 43 incidents during the bonfire reporting period have been tagged "Bonfire Covid". These are incidents that during the tolerant approach would not have been extinguished however were extinguished this year to prevent a gathering, to mitigate the spread of the virus and to aid the adherence of Covid legislation.**

### 3, 5 and 10-year average

The below data shows that despite the challenges faced due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the slight increase in deliberate secondary fires compared to 2019, the overall figure still falls below the 3, 5 and 10-year average.

Call Date	2018 Period	2019 Period	2020 Period	3 year average	5 year average	10 year average
19 Oct	12	5	11	8	16	14
20 Oct	26	14	19	18	31	27
21 Oct	35	22	23	24	39	40
22 Oct	46	25	32	30	50	54
23 Oct	62	32	46	42	67	71
24 Oct	87	41	49	55	81	88
25 Oct	102	42	57	66	95	105
26 Oct	110	50	62	75	107	119
27 Oct	124	60	62	86	122	137
28 Oct	135	77	68	100	134	150
29 Oct	151	98	71	120	153	168
30 Oct	171	134	91	154	190	200
31 Oct	185	149	99	174	212	220
01 Nov	198	154	107	185	226	233
02 Nov	220	156	112	201	243	248
03 Nov	241	161	114	218	259	264
04 Nov	271	172	131	236	276	284
05 Nov	329	207	209	287	338	354
06 Nov	361	242	243	327	384	406
07 Nov	366	243	268	334	398	427

### Firework Incidents

District	2019	2020	Difference
<b>Wirral</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-3</b>
<b>Liverpool</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>+6</b>
<i>Liverpool North</i>	3	7	+4
<i>Liverpool South</i>	2	4	+2
<b>Sefton</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-2</b>
<b>Knowsley</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>St Helens</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-1</b>
<b>Merseyside Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>0</b>

### Violence at Work Incidents

District	2019	2020	Difference
<b>Wirral</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Liverpool</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>+3</b>
<i>Liverpool North</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Liverpool South</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>+3</i>
<b>Sefton</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Knowsley</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-2</b>
<b>St Helens</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Merseyside Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>-1</b>

### IIT Summary

Incidents attributed to the bonfire period attended by IIT between 19<sup>th</sup> October and 7<sup>th</sup> November

Date	Station Ground	District	Incident Type	IIT Summary
17/10/20	25	Wirral	Deliberate Dwelling	Lit cat 2 rocket pushed through letterbox
20/10/20	25	Wirral	Deliberate Dwelling	Firework pushed inside letterbox
23/10/20	15	Liverpool	Deliberate	Firework set off inside lift
25/10/20	42	Liverpool	Deliberate Dwelling	Lit firework put through a window
30/10/20	19	Liverpool	Deliberate Non-Domestic	Cat 2 firework thrown in to shop
30/10/20	11	Liverpool	Deliberate ASB	Firework discharged in females hand
	14	Liverpool	Deliberate Dwelling	Cat 2 firework pushed through letterbox
03/11/20	11	Liverpool	Deliberate dwelling	Firework thrown through a smashed window
05/11/20	15	Liverpool	Deliberate Vehicle	Firework put inside vehicle
06/11/20	19	Liverpool	Deliberate Dwelling	Cat 2 rocket pushed through letterbox
06/11/20	19	Liverpool	Deliberate vehicle	Firework put inside vehicle

### Trojan Fire Appliance

The Trojan Fire Appliance was stood up proactively on 30<sup>th</sup> October and 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> November supported by Merseyside Police. During its deployment, the Trojan Fire Appliance was mobilised to 4 incidents. The Trojan Fire Appliance carried out high visibility patrols of high demand areas and also visited Fire Stations to engage with Fire Crews who had recently experienced violence at work incidents to explain the concept of the Trojan Fire Appliance.

### Tipper Truck Final Tonnage

A key piece of work that stands out is the combustible waste removal utilising MFRS Staff. This year, an exceptional 52.38 tonnes of potential bonfire material was removed from the streets of Merseyside.

## **Target Hardening Visits**

Target hardening visits completed by Arson Officers between 19th October and 7th November

<b>District</b>	<b>Visits</b>
Wirral	16
Liverpool	20
Sefton	3
Knowsley	12
St Helens	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>65</b>

## **Arson Team**

The ownership of the district plans by each Arson Officer allowed for local plans to be devised which were specific to the local communities for whom we serve and the figures clearly reflect the hard work undertaken and the collaboration with partner agencies.

## **Street Intervention Teams**

Our Street Intervention Teams deployed over a total of 38 evenings in Liverpool, Sefton, Wirral and Knowsley.

## **OSR**

The Operational Support Room (OSR) was established within the JCC on six nights over the bonfire period staffed by the Arson Team Community Safety Coordinator, a Station Manager plus a Watch Manager. The OSR was in operation on the three Operation Banger Key Nights (30th, 31st Oct, and 5th Nov) with the addition of 4<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> November. The OSR assisted staff in the community that were not riding fire appliances who were deployed across Merseyside. This facility complimented Fire Control, allowing staff to concentrate on the increase in emergency calls for service via the 999 system. The OSR monitored Arson Officers, Home Safety Advocates, Street Intervention Teams and Youth Engagement Staff.

## **Bonfire Sweep**

A post Bonfire night sweep took place on the morning of Wednesday 6th November. This involved fire crews patrolling their station areas in order to extinguish smouldering bonfires in known fire locations. Appliances remained available for redirection by Fire Control. This enabled tipper trucks to remove remain debris from bonfires.

**APPENDIX C  
SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN FIGURES**

# BONFIRE PERIOD 2020 SOCIAL MEDIA

**PAID FOR CAMPAIGN RAN: OCTOBER 27<sup>TH</sup> - NOVEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup>**  
(ORGANIC POSTS FROM 19<sup>TH</sup>)

**NO. OF 'LIKES' OUR POSTS RECEIVED:**

- 5,650 ON FACEBOOK
- 1,275 ON TWITTER
- 270 ON INSTAGRAM

**OUR POST ON 5<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER RE: VAW REACHED 294,636 PEOPLE ON FACEBOOK & HAD 943 COMMENTS.**

**OUR ORGANIC POSTS WERE SHARED 4,860 TIMES ON FB & RETWEETED 751 TIMES.**

<b>1,106,587</b> TOTAL REACH ON FACEBOOK	<b>483,955</b> TOTAL IMPRESSIONS ON TWITTER	<b>4,260</b> TOTAL REACH ON INSTAGRAM (DOES NOT INCLUDE IGTV)
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**OUR PAID FOR CAMPAIGN REACHED 379,212 PEOPLE ON FACEBOOK (& INSTA).** **&** **ACHIEVED 192,043 IMPRESSIONS ON TWITTER.**

**£994.92  
TOTAL SPENT**

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