

# Public Document Pack



To: All Members of the Community Safety and Protection Committee

R. Groves  
Monitoring Officer

Tel: 0151 296 4000  
Extn: 4124 Ally Kirby

Our ref AK/RG

Date: 28 January 2026

Dear All,

You are invited to attend a meeting of the **COMMUNITY SAFETY AND PROTECTION COMMITTEE** to be held at **13:00hrs** on **THURSDAY, 5TH FEBRUARY, 2026** in the Liverpool Suite at Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Bridle Road, Bootle.

The meeting will be available to watch via YouTube on the following link:

<https://youtube.com/live/WclzMuvT5zs?feature=share>

Yours faithfully,

*PP – A Kirby*

Monitoring Officer

Encl.

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

**5 FEBRUARY 2026**

**AGENDA**

**Members**

Councillor Jan Grace (Chair)  
Councillor Jeanette Banks  
Councillor Edna Finneran  
Councillor Doreen Knight  
Councillor Chris Page  
Councillor Mike Sullivan  
Councillor Lynne Thompson  
Councillor Kieran Murphy  
Councillor Lesley Rennie

**1. Apologies**

To consider any apologies for absence.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

To consider declarations of interest in relation to any item on the agenda.

**3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting (Pages 3 - 12)**

To consider the minutes of the last meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2025.

**4. Post Bonfire Update 2025 (Pages 13 - 50)**

To consider the report relating to the Post Bonfire Update 2025  
(CFO/36/2526).

**5. ND2 Procurement - HVP Hose (Pages 51 - 54)**

To consider the report relating to ND2 Procurement – HVP Hose  
(CFO/38/2526).

**6. ND2 Procurement - Prime Movers (Pages 55 - 58)**

To consider the report relating to ND2 Procurement – Prime Movers  
(CFO/37/2526).

***Please note that this report is exempt by virtue of paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.***

## **MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

### **COMMUNITY SAFETY AND PROTECTION COMMITTEE**

**4 SEPTEMBER 2025**

#### **MINUTES**

**Present:** **Councillor** Jan Grace (Chair), Jeanette Banks, Edna Finneran, Doreen Knight, Chris Page, Mike Sullivan, Lynne Thompson, Kieran Murphy and Lesley Rennie.

<b>In Attendance:</b>	Chief Fire Officer	Nick Searle
	Assistant Chief Fire Officer	Ged Sheridan
	Monitoring Officer	Ria Groves
	Director of Finance and Procurement	Mike Rea

**1. Apologies**

No apologies of absence were received.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest in relation to any item on the agenda.

**3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the last meeting held on Thursday 3rd April 2025 were agreed as an accurate record.

**4. Financial Review 2025/26 - April to June**

Director of Finance and Procurement, Mike Rea, presented the report reviewing the Authority's revenue, capital and reserves financial position for 2025/26, covering the period April to June 2025.

Members were informed that the total Budget requirement remained at £77.934 million. The Firefighter pay award had been settled at 3.2%, which was above the 2.5% budget assumption, and the Local Government staff pay award had also been agreed at 3.2%. Members noted that where additional costs could not be contained within budgets, the Inflation Reserve would be used.

Mike Rea advised that the Capital programme changes included a net increase of £13.9 million due to rephasing of capital schemes from 2024/25 into 2025/26 expenditure, largely relating to National Resilience £11.900 million. An additional £282,000 increase was agreed by the Authority for the procurement of fire appliances. It was also noted that the use of £2.000 million from the Capital Investment Reserve to fund capital expenditure and reduce borrowing would be recommended and the General Reserve would remain at £3.900 million.

With regards to the Treasury Management, Members acknowledged that the performance was consistent with the approved strategy for 2025/26. Highlighting that at the end of June 2025, the Authority held £45.9 million in investments, all within approved limits, and Mike Rea confirmed that no new loans had been taken out.

Councillor Chris Page queried the investment strategy on page 17 of the report, highlighting that the approach appeared retrospective, and asked whether there was scope to soften that process in the future. In response, Mike Rea explained that investment terms and returns were currently high, particularly with current investments and that it would not be appropriate to soften the strategy, at this time.

**RESOLVED** that;

- a) the contents of the report be noted;
- b) the use of £2.000m from the Capital Investment Reserve to fund capital expenditure and reduce the level of borrowing be approved;
- c) the proposed revenue and capital budget alignments be approved;
- d) the use of the Inflation Reserve required to cover pay awards above the 2.5% MTFP assumption be approved; and
- e) the Director of Finance and Procurement be instructed to continue to work with budget managers to maximise savings in 2025/26 and use any savings to reduce the level of capital borrowing.

## **5. CRMP Mid-Term Consultation 2025**

Chief Fire Officer, Nick Searle, presented the Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) mid-term consultation 2025 report, which set out the Authority's plans to carry out a mid-term consultation on the 2024–27 CRMP with stakeholders. Members were advised that the consultation would run from August 2025.

Members noted that ahead of the approval of the current CRMP in 2024, the Authority had undertaken extensive engagement and consultation with staff, stakeholders and communities, whilst highlighting the 2023 His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) inspection report had identified ongoing engagement as good practice.

Members were informed that to support the mid-term review, a community engagement breakfast meeting had taken place at Service Headquarters on 29th August 2025, attended by the Chief Fire Officer. Two public focus groups were scheduled for 1st September 2025, with one being held without Service staff present in order to assess whether the absence of officers influenced the nature of feedback received. Members acknowledged that Stakeholders and

staff would also be provided with an update on progress against CRMP actions, together with a QR code link to an online survey held on the Authority's website.

Councillor Kieran Murphy asked whether there had been a public consultation, and the Chief Fire Officer explained that both stages prior to the approval of the CRMP had involved public consultation. As this was the first mid-term consultation, it was explained that it had been opened to focus groups who had contributed to the past, alongside the opportunity for the public to comment online at any time.

Councillor Jeanette Banks queried about the possibility of producing and distributing paper copies to reach the public who might not be able to access the website, and how such distribution would be decided. The Chief Fire Officer advised that while this could be considered, distributing to every property within Merseyside would involve significant cost and that the primary route for access would remain through the Authority's website however paper copies were provided to those who request it.

Councillor Chris Page referred to page 48 of the report and requested further information on the different roles and duties of Station and Watch Managers at incidents. The Chief Fire Officer explained that while Watch Managers had traditionally been in charge of pumps, around 80% of incidents could be managed by a Crew Manager. The Service was trialling a model where Crew Managers led appliances from neighbouring stations, with a Watch Manager responding separately in a car to oversee both. Members noted that this freed Watch Managers for wider responsibilities and provided experience closer to Station Manager roles, a model already in use in other services such as West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service.

Councillor Mike Sullivan welcomed the report and proposals, commenting that it would provide an excellent progression route for officers on the career ladder, and asked that Members be kept updated.

Councillor Jeanette Banks expressed appreciation to officers for producing a clear, detailed and well-prepared report.

**RESOLVED** that the CRMP mid-term stakeholder consultation taking place from August 2025 be noted.

## **6. Service Delivery Plan 2025-26 April to June Update**

Chief Fire Officer, Nick Searle presented the Service Delivery Plan 2025-26 April to June update to Members and provided an overview of the Authority's performance.

Members' attention was drawn to accidental dwelling fires, with the Chief Fire Officer highlighting a recent increase, influenced by periods of warm, dry weather, which had resulted in more outdoor living activities, including cooking, drinking and smoking in gardens. Members noted that the majority of these fires had originated outside of properties, for example, from barbecues or garden fires, and had spread to homes. It was emphasised that, despite the increase,

this year represented the fourth lowest number of accidental dwelling fires in the past eight years. Members acknowledged that the Authority would use this information to target areas of high risk in the future.

With regards to secondary fire incidents, the Chief Fire Officer noted a further rise which had been influenced by a significant reduction in annual rainfall between February and May 2025. Members acknowledged that figures had been 65.4% lower, compared to the previous year, combined with unseasonably high temperatures. It was reported that a decrease in secondary fires had been observed in June, coinciding with increased rainfall. It was highlighted that deliberate secondary fires and antisocial behaviour-related incidents had also increased due to these conditions, particularly during school holidays, and that organised crime groups had contributed to some serious arson incidents. The Chief Fire Officer outlined the preventative measures implemented in response, including target hardening, multi-agency interventions, targeted arson reduction campaigns, and the reallocation of Street Intervention Teams.

The Chief Fire Officer highlighted sickness absence figures, noting that they remained high, particularly amongst grey book staff. It was reported that performance was monitored and managed by the Performance Management Group and Strategic Boards, and that absences identified were often related to mental health issues, including stress linked to the wellbeing of family members.

With regards to the CRMP 2024–27, Members noted an update on the HMICFRS 2023 Action Plan, which detailed progress on recommendations and actions for improvement. Members' attention was also drawn to the individual functional plans.

The Chair, Councillor Jan Grace referred to page 147 of the report, regarding the rebranding of the Kings Trust and praised officers that it was an excellent piece of work, noting that it was a positive and necessary step forward.

With regards to page 174, Councillor Jan Grace enquired about the impact of reverse mentoring and how this was working in practice. The Chief Fire Officer advised that reverse mentoring had been in place for some time and was working well, also highlighting it had been incorporated into the High Potential Development Programme.

**RESOLVED** that the attached Service Delivery Plan reports (Appendices A-L) for publication on the website be approved.

## **7. Staff Survey 2024 Action Plan**

Chief Fire Officer, Nick Searle presented the Staff Survey 2024 Action Plan report to Members, highlighting key findings from the Staff Engagement Survey 2024 and the proposed actions for improvement.

It was reported that 41% of staff (422 individuals) completed the survey, an increase of 9% from 2022 with an overall engagement score of 88%.

Members noted that key drivers of engagement included pride in the organisation, confidence in MFRS's (Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service) future, feeling valued, recognition of improvements in the workplace over three years, senior leaders listening to staff, and a clear vision provided by the Chief Fire Officer and Strategic Leadership Team (SLT).

With regards to areas to maintain and areas for focus, Members noted that SLT had reviewed the results, and feedback had been cascaded to individual functions, which informed the actions within the report. It was highlighted that these actions would be integrated into future planning and functional plans.

Councillor Mike Sullivan welcomed the report, noting the value of the clear direction given to staff by SLT and the assurance this provided to Members in looking ahead.

Councillor Lynne Thompson welcomed the strong internal leadership and clear vision for staff and praised the high 83% response rate. The results showed that the CFO and SLT were viewed positively for setting the overall direction of MFRS, with staff engagement continuing to increase.

Councillor Jeanette Banks queried how areas of concern would be reviewed going forward. The Chief Fire Officer explained that they would be incorporated into the functional plans on a quarterly basis, allowing the Authority to keep a close track on developments.

Councillor Jan Grace referenced page 213 and queried if the engagement between staff and the Authority would be reviewed further. Monitoring Officer, Ria Groves, confirmed that it was currently included within the Legal and Democratic Services functional plan and noted it was also discussed at a recent Member Development and Engagement group.

**RESOLVED** that;

- a) the content of this report be noted; and
- b) the action plan attached at appendix A be approved.

## **8. People Plan 2024-27 Update**

Chief Fire Officer, Nick Searle provided an update to Members on progress against the actions outlined within the People Plan 2024-27. It was reported that positive progress had been made against the actions within the plan. It was noted that the People Plan received approval during an Authority meeting held on 17th June 2024.

Members acknowledged that the People Plan, CRMP and the Medium-Term Financial Plan complimented each other, together providing a strategic building block for the Authority.

The Chief Fire Officer drew Members' attention to pages 249 to 254 of the report, highlighting that all actions were either completed or in progress.

**RESOLVED** that the positive progress made against the actions outlined within the plan be noted.

**9. National Fire Standards Annual Update April 2025**

Chief Fire Officer, Nick Searle provided an update to Members on the Authority's efforts in achieving compliance with the National Fire Standards. It was outlined that, internally, when a new fire standard was released, the consultation would be incorporated to a dedicated portal page wherein the relevant officers would be alerted. Highlighting the process in which officers submitted comments on the consultation documents, a responsibility would be allocated to the relevant functions to complete a gap analysis. The Chief Fire Officer confirmed that the implementation tool and updates were also included within the report.

Councillor Chris Page expressed that it was reassuring to see mostly Green ratings and thanked officers for the report update. He noted the importance of focusing on the key points and asked if there was anything the Members could do to provide support or assist in addressing any outstanding issues.

The Chief Fire Officer responded that progress against the standards was going very well. He noted the importance of keeping Authority Members engaged and confirmed that, where necessary, support could be provided to assist with the implementation of future standards.

**RESOLVED** that the progress against achieving compliance with the National Fire Standards (Appendix A and B) and the work being undertaken within Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service ('MFRS') to implement and ensure compliance with the National Fire Standards be noted.

**10. Extension to the Food Contract for Grocery, Frozen and Chilled Products**

Chief Fire Officer, Nick Searle presented the report to Members, noting the option of a two-year extension to the food contract for grocery, frozen, and chilled products, which would cover both the Service Headquarters and the Training and Development Academy sites.

Members were advised that a procurement exercise had been undertaken in 2023 using the TUCO Limited framework.

The Chief Fire Officer highlighted that the current contract was awarded to Trevor's Warehouse Limited for a two-year period, with an estimated value of £240,000. Members acknowledged that the actual spend against the contract from commencement on 13th October 2023 was £252,000, with the £12,000 overspend attributed to the opening of the new Training and Development Academy site and the extensive use of on-site catering there. Members were advised that should the option to extend the contract by an additional two years be approved by Members the value of the contract would exceed £300,000.



Councillor Mike Sullivan welcomed the contract extension report and praised the excellent catering facilities available at Service Headquarters.

**RESOLVED** that the two-year extension to the call off contract MFRS 2324-19 between MFRA and Trevor's Warehouse Ltd for an estimated additional £300k be approved.

**11. Award of Contract for the Procurement and supply of smoke alarms**

Chief Fire Officer, Nick Searle, presented the report to Members which outlined the procurement process for the supply of smoke alarms and to award the contract to Fire Blitz Extinguisher Limited.

Members were informed that the previous arrangement for the provision of smoke alarms was procured utilising a call-off contract under a framework led by West Midlands Fire Service, and that the ability to award a call-off contract under the framework expired in May 2025.

Following a new procurement exercise, Members noted that Fire Blitz Extinguisher Limited was selected as the preferred provider, having achieved the highest overall ranking, allowing the call-off contract to be awarded under the successor framework.

The Chief Fire Officer explained that awarding the four-year contract would allow the Authority to plan its smoke alarm provisions as part of its prevention strategy, using a proven and reliable product. It was acknowledged that Members and staff were already familiar with the installation, information and maintenance of Fire Blitz units, as the supplier had been used previously by the Authority. The Chief Fire Officer advised Members that the estimated value of the four-year contract was £752,500, which would be contained within the Authority's existing budget.

**RESOLVED** that Members;

- a) the contents of the report be noted; and
- b) the award of the supply of smoke alarms contract to Fireblitz Extinguisher Ltd for a duration of 4 years with an estimated value of £752,500 be approved.

**12. ICT Managed Service Award**

Chief Fire Officer, Nick Searle presented the ICT Managed Service Award report to Members. Members noted that the current ICT Managed Services contract had an initial term of five years, with an option to extend for up to a further five years. The Chief Fire Officer highlighted that the Authority had executed the contract extension in September 2018 for three years, and again in March 2023 for a further two years. It was explained that the contract was

therefore due to expire on 31st March 2026, with no further option to extend beyond that date.

Following an extensive period of internal planning with relevant departments, Members acknowledged the procurement process which commenced in June 2024. Members were advised that the Crown Commercial Service (CCS) Technology Services 3 Framework Agreement (RM6100) Lot 4, was selected as an appropriate route to market, and therefore was considered suitable for this process.

Members noted that continuing to outsource ICT Managed Services remained the most cost-effective method of delivery for the services for the Authority. It was highlighted that the technical evaluation and moderation of the tender response took place between 14th February and 18th March 2025.

The Chief Fire Officer advised that the recommended contract was reported to bring additional benefits to the Fire Rescue Authority compared with the current contract, including improved service level agreements with faster response and fix times, priority out-of-hours incident support, enhanced cybersecurity services, and additional support for National Resilience and the UK International Search and Rescue team (UKISAR).

**RESOLVED** that the award of the contract for the provision of ICT Managed Service Provision to Telent Technology Services Ltd for a period of 5 years with effect from 1st March 2026 (with the option to extend the term for a further 2-year period) for the 5-year contract price of £13.740m be approved.

### **13. Procurement of Power Tools and Lighting**

Chief Fire Officer, Nick Searle presented the Procurement of Power Tools and Lighting report to Members. The report outlined the outcome of the procurement exercise for the supply of battery-operated power tools and lighting for each first responder vehicle, together with an additional training set, as part of the New Dimensions 2 (ND2) programme supporting UK National Resilience.

Members were advised that under ND2, all power tools and lighting were required to be battery operated, providing both practical and environmental benefits. It was highlighted that a direct award under the ESPO Framework for Tools and Ironmongery was utilised as the compliant route to market, with quotations obtained from two framework suppliers. Southern Power Tools and Abrasives Limited was identified as the preferred bidder, with a total cost of £592,737.80.

Members acknowledged that funding was provided by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) via a grant agreement as part of the ND2 Programme.

**RESOLVED** that:

- a) the contents of the report be noted, and

- b) the award of the contract for power tools and lighting to Southern Power Tools & Abrasives Ltd at a total cost of £592,737.80 be approved.

Close

Date of next meeting Thursday, 5 February 2026

This page is intentionally left blank

MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY			
MEETING OF THE:	COMMUNITY SAFETY AND PROTECTION COMMITTEE		
DATE:	5 FEBRUARY 2026	REPORT NO:	CFO/36/2526
PRESENTING OFFICER	CHIEF FIRE OFFICER, NICK SEARLE		
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	AREA MANAGER, MARK THOMAS	REPORT AUTHOR:	GROUP MANAGER, GED KNOCK
OFFICERS CONSULTED:	COMMUNITY SAFETY CO-ORDINATOR, LINDSAY SCHOFIELD, STATION MANAGER, ALUN EVANS BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE MANAGER, JOHN FIELDING STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP TEAM (SLT)		
TITLE OF REPORT:	POST BONFIRE UPDATE 2025		

APPENDICES:	APPENDIX A: SUMMARY REPORT FOR INCIDENT ACTIVITY DURING 2025 BONFIRE PERIOD
-------------	--

## Purpose of Report

- To update Members on overall performance across the Bonfire Period (19<sup>th</sup> October to 7<sup>th</sup> November) 2025.

## Recommendation

- It is recommended that Members;
  - note the contents of the report including pre-bonfire events and performance; and
  - note the forward planning proposals for 2026.

## Introduction and Background

### Executive Summary and Highlights:

- The key dates during 2025 were: Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> October, Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October and Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> November. During the 2025 bonfire period, **123** deliberate secondary fires were attended by Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service (MFRS) crews.
- When compared to the 2024 period, this is a reduction of **234** incidents or **-65.5%**. **The lowest in the recorded history of MFRS.** (See Appendix A).

Performance at a district level was as follows:

- Knowsley saw **22** incidents, which is a reduction of **18** incidents or **-45%**.
- Liverpool as a whole saw **44** incidents, a reduction of **111** incidents or **-71.6%** compared to 2024 (North Liverpool saw **23** incidents, a reduction on 2024's performance of **93** incidents or **-75.3%**. South Liverpool saw **21** incidents, which is **41** fewer incidents than 2024 or **-66.1%**.)
- Sefton saw **12** incidents, **32 (-72.7%)** fewer than in 2024.
- St Helens saw **18** incidents, a reduction on 2024's performance of **26** incidents or **-59.1%**.
- Wirral saw **27** incidents, which is **47** or **-63.5%** fewer than 2024.

When aggregated proportionally is applied to incidents per 10,000 population, Sefton had the fewest incidents with **0.4**. Liverpool had the highest proportion of **0.9** incidents per 10,000 population.

On the 5<sup>th</sup> November 2025, crews attended **16** incidents. 10 of these incidents involved intentional burning/bonfires.

The top wards for incidents attended were: Bidston & St James (**22**) followed by Northwood (**6**), Garston (**5**) as well as Linacre and Festival Gardens with **4** each.

When compared to the previous year, most stations saw reductions in incidents, the exceptions were 11 - Liverpool City and 42 – Kirkby with minor increases of 3 and 1 respectively.

There were **4** incidents of violence at work during the 2025 bonfire period, 6 fewer than 2024.

#### **Background and pre-bonfire significant events:**

5. MFRS, in partnership with Merseyside Police and Local Authorities, plan for the protection of public safety across the Bonfire Period through Operation Banger, Safety Advisory Groups and community engagement.
6. For 2025, issues that presented during 2023 and 2024 in relation to community led bonfires, predominantly on the Wirral, resurfaced and were addressed through the Wirral Events Safety Advisory Group (WESAG). Bonfire sizes were found to be excessive and firework risk assessments inadequate. Robust engagement in combination with the MFRS position statement resulted in a return from MFRS to WESAG with limitations on all six proposed community bonfires.
7. The organisers of the community bonfires on the Wirral received notice of the limitations on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2025. This resulted in heightened community tension through social media and local reporting.
8. At 17:00hrs on 22<sup>nd</sup> October, both large scale bonfires, at Ilchester Park and Meadow Crescent, Woodchurch, which had been built without authorisation, were ignited. One instance of Violence at Work (VAW) was reported against an

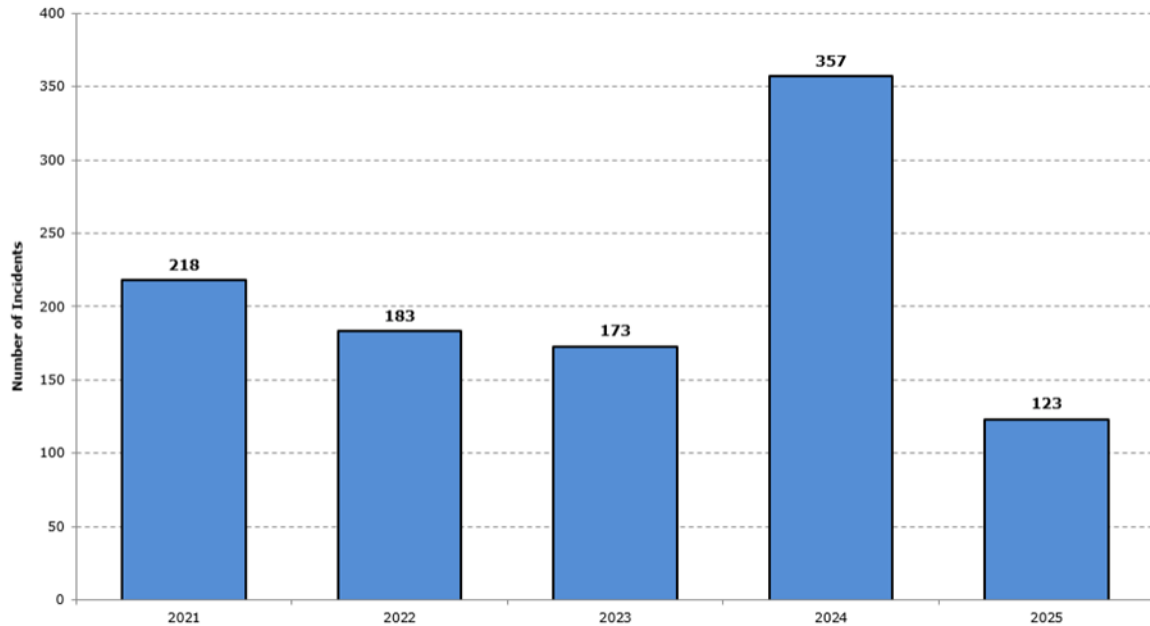
MFRS crew with no injuries or damage. Merseyside Police colleagues received a similar attack at Ilchester Park. Both fires were allowed to burn out.

9. In response to this act, the remaining four organisers stated to WESAG that they would remain within the limits set by MFRS and resubmit appropriate firework risk assessments. A period of heightened tension continued for 48 hours following the ignition.
10. A further WESAG was convened and two community charities, North Birkenhead Development Trust and Woodchurch Trust presented intentions to provide a bonfire within MFRS limits at Ilchester and Woodchurch respectively to ease community tensions. Planning was submitted and found to be adequate on 24<sup>th</sup> October. A “no-build” instruction until 4<sup>th</sup> November was added to both sites.
11. On 5<sup>th</sup> November, MFRS received notice through WESAG that both new organisers had “lost control” of their sites and that security/contractors were refusing to operate on site due to threats and intimidation. This was communicated to Merseyside Police who provided a presence to limit further building.
12. The remainder of Merseyside saw no planning submissions from community organisers; however, several large-scale bonfires were erected on 5<sup>th</sup> November, most notably at:
  - County Rd, Kirkby
  - Kirkdale Recreation Ground
  - Northumberland St, Toxteth
13. Several planning applications for bonfires/displays at sports grounds and public houses were reviewed by the local authority SAG with no issues.
14. As per the planning for Operation Banger, all command allocations and community safety measures were put in place for the three key nights, 30<sup>th</sup> October, 31<sup>st</sup> October and 5<sup>th</sup> November.

**Performance Report (Deliberate secondary and bonfires, 19<sup>th</sup> October – 7<sup>th</sup> November).**

15. During the period, 123 deliberate secondary/bonfires were recorded, a reduction of 66% from 357 similar incidents in 2024 and 29% lower than the highest performing year in 2023, where 173 incidents were recorded. (see below).

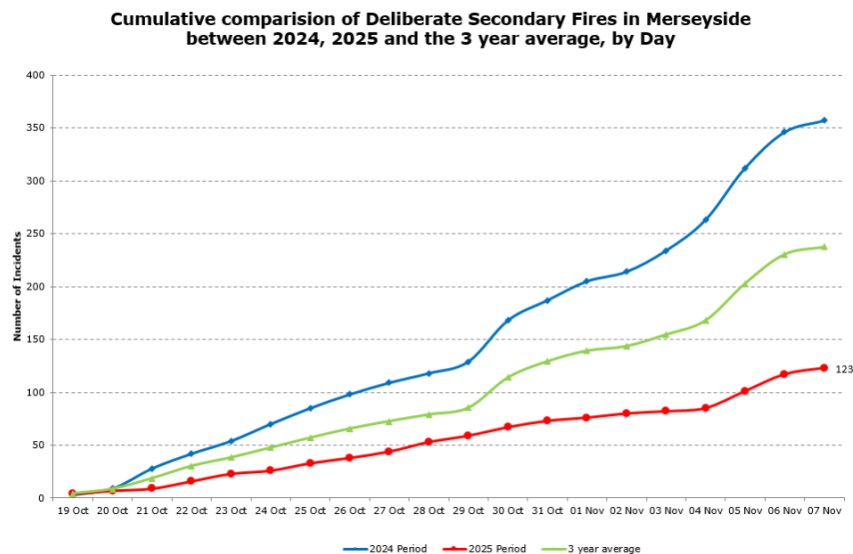
**5 Year Retrospective for Deliberate Secondary Fires, Merseyside Wide,  
between 2021 and 2025**



16. Deeper analysis shows that 16 bonfires/deliberate fires were attended and extinguished throughout Merseyside on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2025 in contrast to 49 incidents on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2024. Daily analysis of the “key nights” – 30<sup>th</sup> October 31<sup>st</sup> October and 5<sup>th</sup> November in relation to secondary fires over the last 5 years is shown below:

Date:	2022	2023	2024	2025	Year average
30 <sup>th</sup> Oct	26	21	39	8	29
31 <sup>st</sup> Oct	8	19	19	6	15
5 <sup>th</sup> Nov	32	24	49	16	35

17. A representation of deliberate fires between 2024-, 2025- and 3-year average is shown below. This also highlights the reduction in incidents for 2025.





18. In addition to this, four Violence at Work submissions were made for the period, two occurring on 5<sup>th</sup> November. Fortunately, no MFRS staff were injured.
19. VAW that was reported inside the bonfire period includes:
- 22/10/25: Fireworks aimed at an appliance in Birkenhead – no injuries or damage.
  - 22/10/25: Youths attempted to enter Wallasey Fire Station as the appliance responded, bricks and missiles thrown at the appliance but did not make contact – no injuries or damage.
  - 5/11/25: Fireworks aimed at crew and appliance while in attendance at a van fire – no injuries or damage.
  - 5/11/25: Crew, officers and appliance attacked by youths directing fireworks at the scene of operations at a high-rise flat fire at Knowsley Heights. Fire ignited by fireworks directed onto a fourth-floor balcony. No injuries to fire crew or damage to appliances, however, one Merseyside Police Officer and member of the public both injured.
20. An overview of performance across the local authority areas over the sample periods is given below:
21. 5<sup>th</sup> November only:

#### All Deliberate Fires

District	2024	2025	Difference	Percentage Difference
Knowsley	5	1	-4	-80.0%
Liverpool	27	5	-22	-81.5%
Sefton	8	5	-3	-37.5%
St Helens	4	4	0	0.0%
Wirral	5	1	-4	-80.0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>-33</b>	<b>-67.3%</b>

#### Bonfires Only

District	2024	2025	Difference	Percentage Difference
Knowsley	4	1	-3	-75.0%
Liverpool	14	2	-12	-85.7%
Sefton	4	4	0	0.0%
St Helens	4	2	-2	-50.0%
Wirral	3	1	-2	-66.7%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>-19</b>	<b>-65.5%</b>

22. 19<sup>th</sup> October to 7<sup>th</sup> November:

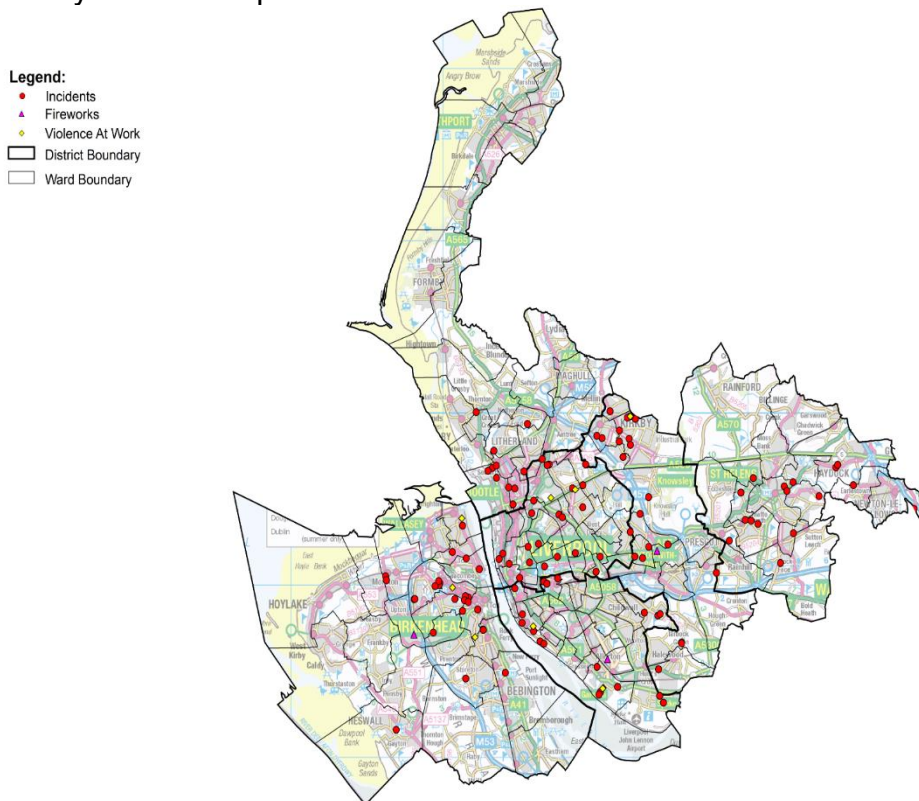
**All Deliberate Fires**

District	2024	2025	Difference	Percentage Difference
Knowsley	37	19	-18	-48.6%
Liverpool	139	35	-104	-74.8%
Sefton	38	10	-28	-73.7%
St Helens	36	14	-22	-61.1%
Wirral	62	23	-39	-62.9%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>-211</b>	<b>-67.6%</b>

**Bonfires Only**

District	2024	2025	Difference	Percentage Difference
Knowsley	18	8	-10	-55.6%
Liverpool	33	8	-25	-75.8%
Sefton	12	6	-6	-50.0%
St Helens	10	9	-1	-10.0%
Wirral	26	14	-12	-46.2%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>-54</b>	<b>-54.5%</b>

A geographical breakdown of incidents (including fireworks and VAW) across Merseyside for the period is shown below:



Distribution of Deliberate Secondary Fires 2025 Bonfire Period overlaid with incidents of Violence at Work and Fireworks

Author: Business Intelligence, Strategy & Performance Date: 14/11/2025 Produced Using MapInfo  
Map Reference:  
© Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey AC0000806710



23. A comparison of secondary incident types during 2024 and 2025 is shown below:

Incident	2024	2025	Change	% Change
04 01 Derelict Building	3	4	1	33.3%
04 02 Grassland	16	3	-13	-81.3%
04 03 Intentional Burning / Bonfire	126	61	-65	-51.6%
04 04 Outdoor Structure	10	7	-3	-30.0%
04 05 Refuse Fire	202	48	-154	-76.2%
04 06 Derelict Vehicle	0	0	0	0.0%
Grand Total	357	123	-234	-65.5%

This table identifies that most deliberate secondary fires attended were “04 03 Intentional Burning / Bonfire” with 61 incidents (a reduction of 65 incidents or 51.6%). This incident type accounts for 50% of total incidents. This was then followed by “04 05 Refuse Fire” with 48 incidents, a notable reduction of 154 incidents or 76.2%.

Concerning other incident types, there were further reductions in “04 02 Grassland” and “04 04 Outdoor Structure”. The “04 01 Derelict Building” incident type saw an increase of 1 and “04 06 Derelict Vehicle” saw no (zero) incidents.

24. From the data provided and performance recorded, it can be seen that bonfire 2025 was **successful** in protecting communities, reducing incidents and minimising harm, injury or loss. In summary:

- Overall **secondary incidents are reduced by 67.6%** across the five local authorities.
- Overall **bonfires are reduced by 54.5%** across the five local authorities.
- **VAW submissions for the period were reduced by 50%** with no injuries or damage. An additional VAW was incurred on 6<sup>th</sup> October relating to fireworks. Of the five in total, three occurred in the vicinity of the proposed Wirral bonfires.
- Tipper trucks collected over **80 tonnes of waste** during the period.
- **Arson Officers and Road/Water Safety team engaged with approximately 4000 pupils** across primary and secondary schools in the county, providing education and safety messages.
- MFRS facilitated diversionary /education activities including LFC Kicks and Everton in the Community “high risk” youths at TDA.
- Street Intervention Teams were deployed under Threat/Risk/Harm intelligence to educate young people in key areas.
- Incident Investigation Team (IIT) stood up double staffing for resilience purposes across key nights.
- Trojan appliance stood up but only utilised twice (30<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> November).

25. **Observations outside of data show:**

- Perceived trend of fireworks being used as weapons against MFRS and Merseyside Police. Of note, an incident occurred at Knowsley Heights involving both agencies being attacked.

- Consideration from Wirral Borough Council to place injunctions on land at Ilchester and Woodchurch to prevent future unauthorised bonfires.
- Merseyside Police dispersal zones in South Liverpool largely breached by young people with ongoing reports of ASB/firework use throughout the evening of 5<sup>th</sup> November.

## **26. Forward planning considerations for 2026:**

- MFRS will, with partners, adopt the same position adopted for Operation Banger 2025 in respect of large, unregulated bonfires.
- MFRS will, with partners, attend a debrief to share best practice and lessons learnt from Operation Banger 2025.
- A multi-agency call for legislative change in regard to sale of fireworks to restrict public/underage access.
- Potential for WBC to place injunctions on land at Ilchester Park and Meadow Crescent Woodchurch.
- Potential for Merseyside Police to seek criminal action against former organisers (Ilchester and Woodchurch) for unauthorised ignition and disregard to authority.
- Consideration for WBC to arrange council display.
- A strict “no-build” policy until 4<sup>th</sup> November for all proposed community bonfires.
- Expansion of dispersal zones by Merseyside Police to include additional key nights and areas.
- Investigate cultural links to youth behaviour/ASB in areas of community bonfires through Violence Reduction Partnership.
- Review Knowsley Borough Council approach and tipper funding in respect of the serious fire at Knowsley Heights in addition to least reduction of secondary fires reported back.
- Seek media debrief with local media outlets.

## **Equality and Diversity Implications**

27. The aim of Operation Banger and all other measures taken across the bonfire period is to protect communities from the perspective of threat, harm and risk. The focus is predominantly on areas of high social deprivation which contributes to improving standards of life by reduction of anti-social behaviour or targeted crime.

## **Staff Implications**

28. Consideration to maintain current staff levels within SIT/Arson.
29. Consideration to expand IIT team by one resilience post in forthcoming review.

---

**Legal Implications**

---

30. MFRS continued to exercise its powers in responding to incidents during the Bonfire period and collaborating with partners seeking to ensure both its staff and the community remain safe.

---

**Financial Implications & Value for Money**

---

31. All costs for delivering the bonfire plan were sourced from planned budgets or supported by external partners.
32. Exploration of planning and funding from Knowsley Borough Council in relation to SIT/Tipper Trucks 2026.

---

**Risk Management and Health & Implications**

---

33. Briefings on safe operation (PPE/Appliances) will be given to operational crews before the bonfire period. SOP 5.4.0 Civil Disorder supports the measures and will be redistributed to crews.
34. The MFRS position statement and Fire Control briefings provided a framework for operations in the event of a planned large-scale bonfire.
35. Tipper truck operators were given sufficient information, training and instruction on driving and operating the vehicles prior to commencement. Guidance on handling materials and PPE will be given. No injuries or incidents reported.

---

**Environmental Implications**

---

36. In order to reduce the impact and noticeable increase of fly tipping, tipper trucks operated pre and post bonfire night to remove hazardous waste or combustible materials to minimise the impact on the environment and the safety of MFRS staff.
37. A post Bonfire night sweep took place on the 6<sup>th</sup> 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.

---

**Contribution to Our Vision:** *To be the best Fire & Rescue Service in the UK.*

Our Purpose: *Here to serve, Here to protect, Here to keep you safe.*

---

38. MFRS will continue to support partners in achieving the common goal of protecting communities and reducing risk or harm.

---

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

---

**NONE**

---

---

## **GLOSSARY OF TERMS**

---

<b>CRM</b>	<b>C</b> ommunity <b>R</b> isk <b>M</b> anagement
<b>MFRS</b>	<b>M</b> erseyside <b>F</b> ire and <b>R</b> escue <b>S</b> ervice
<b>CRMP</b>	<b>C</b> ommunity <b>R</b> isk <b>M</b> anagement <b>P</b> lan
<b>MFRA</b>	<b>M</b> erseyside <b>F</b> ire and <b>R</b> escue <b>A</b> uthority
<b>CSP</b>	<b>C</b> ommunity <b>S</b> afety <b>P</b> artnership
<b>ASB</b>	<b>A</b> nti- <b>S</b> ocial <b>B</b> ehaviour
<b>LRF</b>	<b>L</b> ocal <b>R</b> esilience <b>F</b> orum
<b>JCC</b>	<b>J</b> oint <b>C</b> ontrol <b>C</b> entre
<b>OSR</b>	<b>O</b> perational <b>S</b> upport <b>R</b> oom
<b>TDA</b>	<b>T</b> raining and <b>D</b> evelopment <b>A</b> cademy
<b>PPE</b>	<b>P</b> ersonal <b>P</b> rotective <b>E</b> quipment
<b>SOP</b>	<b>S</b> tandard <b>O</b> perating <b>P</b> rocedure
<b>VAW</b>	<b>V</b> iolence <b>a</b> t <b>W</b> ork
<b>SIT</b>	<b>S</b> treet <b>I</b> ntervention <b>T</b> eam
<b>WESAG</b>	<b>W</b> irral <b>E</b> vents <b>S</b> afety <b>A</b> dvisory <b>G</b> roup
<b>SAG</b>	<b>S</b> afety <b>A</b> dvisory <b>G</b> roup
<b>IIT</b>	<b>I</b> ncident <b>I</b> nvestigation <b>T</b> eam



# **Summary Report for Incident Activity during 2025 Bonfire Period**

**AUDIENCE**

**AUTHORITY  
STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP TEAM  
TEAMS INVOLVED IN BONFIRE PLAN**

This is an unpublished work, the Copyright in which vests in Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service. All rights reserved. The information contained herein is the property of Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service, and is supplied without liability for errors or omissions. No part may be reproduced or used except as authorised by Contract or other written permission. The Copyright and the foregoing restriction on reproduction and use extend to all media in which information may be embodied ©

**COMMUNITY RISK MANAGEMENT DIRECTORATE  
STRATEGY & PERFORMANCE DIRECTORATE**

*Date work received: 8<sup>th</sup> November 2025*

*Date work completed: 17<sup>th</sup> November 2025*

*Page 1 of 27*

*D:\Moderngov\Data\AgendaItemDocs\8\8\5\AI00017588\Skav3rjqz.docx*

## Document Control

### Sign-Off List

	Position
	Deputy Chief Fire Officer
	Director of Prevention
	Director of Strategy & Performance
	Group Manager – Prevention

### Distribution List

Name	Position	I / R
Authority		
Senior Leadership Team		
Bonfire Planning Team		

### Related Documents

Reference No.	Title	Author	Version & Date

### Ownership

Has it been agreed with the client that this is a publicly owned document?

Yes/~~No~~

If Yes please state URL: <http://www.merseyfire.gov.uk>

If No please state reason why:



<b>1. AGREEMENT .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2. SUMMARY.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>3. INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>4. METHODOLOGY.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>5. RESULTS .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>5.1 Retrospective Analysis.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>5.2 Incident Breakdown.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>5.3 Temporal Analysis .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>5.4 Location Analysis .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>5.5 Violence at Work.....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>5.6 Deprivation Analysis .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>6. APPENDICES.....</b>	<b>13</b>

## **1. Agreement**

For the purpose of this report the following agreement was made between the client and the Strategy & Performance Directorate.

This work was requested by Area Manager Mark Thomas and received 8<sup>th</sup> November 2025.

The Manager<sup>1</sup> has approved this report/ piece of work can be undertaken by the Strategy & Performance Directorate.

If the scope of the work changes, authorisation must be again obtained and would be noted within the version control document sheet.

It was agreed that this report would be produced in draft format by December 2025 and would be sent electronically to the Director of Strategy & Performance and AM Mark Thomas for comment.

The Manager / Client agreed that their comments would be received back by December 2025. The final report, which will always be in PDF format, would be produced by December 2025, subject to receiving comments.

---

<sup>1</sup> Deb Appleton

## 2. Summary

This report provides a summary analysis of deliberate secondary fires and incidents of violence at work across Merseyside during the 2025 Bonfire Period. For the purpose of this report, the Bonfire Period is defined as the 19<sup>th</sup> October – 7<sup>th</sup> November, and includes comparisons to previous years for benchmarking purposes.

The headlines from this report can be summarised as follows:

- The key dates during 2025 were: Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> October, Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October and Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> November.
- During the 2025 bonfire period, **123** deliberate secondary fires were attended by Merseyside Fire & Rescue crews. When compared to the 2024 period, this is a reduction of **234** incidents or **-65.5%**.
- Performance at a district level was as follows:
  - Knowsley saw **22** incidents, which is a reduction of **18** incidents or **-45%**.
  - Liverpool as a whole saw **44** incidents, a reduction of **111** incidents or **-71.6%** compared to 2024.
    - North Liverpool saw **23** incidents, a reduction on 2024's performance of **93** incidents or **-75.3%**.
    - South Liverpool saw **21** incidents, which is **41** fewer incidents than 2024 or **-66.1%**.
  - Sefton saw **12** incidents, **32** (**-72.7%**) fewer than in 2024.
  - St Helens saw **18** incidents, a reduction on 2024's performance of **26** incidents or **-59.1%**.
  - Wirral saw **27** incidents, which is **47** or **-63.5%** fewer than 2024.
- When aggregated proportionally to incidents per 10,000 population – Sefton had the fewest incidents with **0.4**. Knowsley had the highest proportion of **1.4** incidents per 10,000 population.
- On the 5<sup>th</sup> November 2025, crews attended **16** incidents. 10 of these incidents involved intentional burning/bonfires.
- The top wards for incidents attended were: Bidston & St James (**22**) followed by Northwood (**6**), Garston (**5**) as well as Linacre and Festival Gardens with **4** each.
- When compared to the previous year, most stations saw reductions in incidents, the exceptions were 11 - Liverpool City and 42 – Kirkby with minor increases of 3 and 1 respectively.
- There were **4** incidents of violence at work during the 2025 bonfire period, 6 fewer than 2024.
- The latter part of the period was particularly wet for the time of year<sup>2</sup>

Date	15 <sup>th</sup> Oct to 21 <sup>st</sup> Oct	22 <sup>nd</sup> Oct to 28 <sup>th</sup> Oct	29 <sup>th</sup> Oct to 4 <sup>th</sup> Nov	5 <sup>th</sup> Nov to 12 <sup>th</sup> Nov
Rainfall	18mm	24mm	71mm	32mm

<sup>2</sup> Figures taken from hydrology reports published by the Environment Agency on a weekly basis. This version shows rainfall covering 2024 Bonfire Period [Rainfall and river flow summary 13 November to 19 November 2024](#)

### **3. Introduction**

Traditionally the bonfire period leads to heightened numbers of incidents, specifically deliberate secondary fires and violence at work. This report presents an analysis of incidents during the 2025 Bonfire Period in Merseyside, contrasted with the 2024 period as well as historical retrospectives.

For the purpose of this report, the bonfire period covers the following period: 19<sup>th</sup> October to 7<sup>th</sup> November, allowing for a direct date-to-date comparison.

### **4. Methodology**

To identify and analyse any trends in incidents during the 2025 Bonfire Period the following methodologies were followed:

- The period of analysis covered from 00:00:00hrs on 19<sup>th</sup> October to 23:59:59hrs on 7<sup>th</sup> November.
- Fire related incidents analysed within this report are all deliberate secondary fires<sup>3</sup> as recorded by Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service mobilisation system Vision. Instances of Violence at Work have been taken from the OSHENS Health and Safety reporting system.
- Deprivation data used within this report is based on Indices of Deprivation 2019 (obtained from Department for Communities and Local Government).
- Population figures are based on mid-2024 and census 2023 population estimates published by Office for National Statistics
- The analytical tools adopted in this report include:
  - MapInfo 17 Mapping software – used to identify hotspot areas for incidents and used to filter data according to district and ward level.
  - Crystal Reports – utilised to extract raw data and information from the Vision mobilising system.
  - Excel 365 – used to analyse raw data.

It should be noted that the majority of the analysis contained within this report will be presented at the Merseyside level. Six additional local authority appendices<sup>4</sup> supplement this main report, (section 6).

---

<sup>3</sup> Deliberate secondary fires are based on FSEC (Fire Service Emergency Cover). Incident codes include: 04 01 – Derelict Building, 04 02 – Grassland, 04 03 – Bonfires, 04 04 – Outdoor Structure, 04 05 – Refuse, 04 06 – Derelict Vehicle.

<sup>4</sup> Liverpool is divided into Liverpool North and Liverpool South.

5. Results

5.1 Retrospective Analysis

Chart 1: 10 Year retrospective analysis of deliberate secondary fires

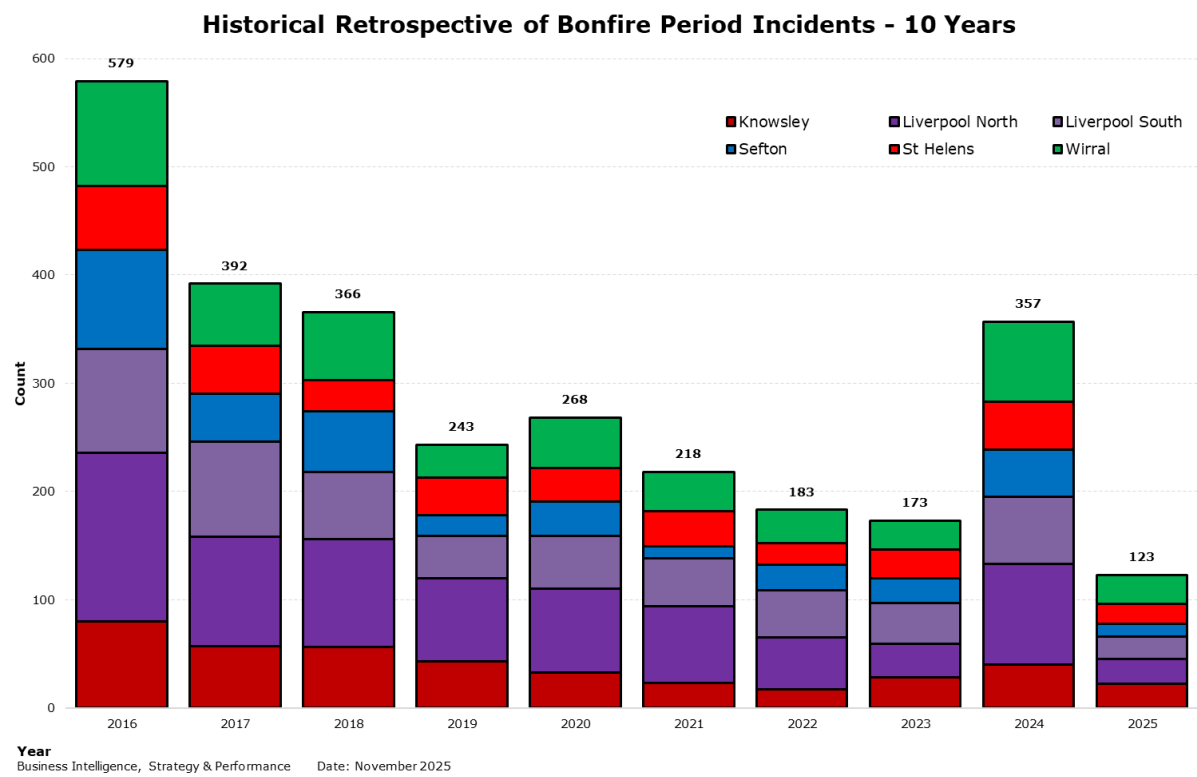


Chart 1 identifies that during the 2025 bonfire period the number of deliberate secondary fire incidents attended by Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service was 123. This is a large reduction of 234 incidents (65.5%) on the previous year.

The 123 incidents attended during the 2025 bonfire period is the lowest number of incidents attended for the period in known history, with all districts seeing notable reductions in incidents attended.

## 5.2 Incident Breakdown

Table 1: Breakdown of incident types attended during 2024 and 2025 bonfire period

Incident	2024	2025	Change	% Change
04 01 Derelict Building	3	4	1	33.3%
04 02 Grassland	16	3	-13	-81.3%
04 03 Intentional Burning / Bonfire	126	61	-65	-51.6%
04 04 Outdoor Structure	10	7	-3	-30.0%
04 05 Refuse Fire	202	48	-154	-76.2%
04 06 Derelict Vehicle	0	0	0	0.0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>-234</b>	<b>-65.5%</b>

Table 1 identifies that most deliberate secondary fires attended were “04 03 Intentional Burning / Bonfire” with 61 incidents (a reduction of 65 incidents or 51.6%) – this incident type accounts for 50% of total incidents. This was then followed by “04 05 Refuse Fire” with 48 incidents, a notable reduction of 154 incidents or 76.2%.

Concerning other incident types there were further reductions in “04 02 Grassland” and “04 04 Outdoor Structure”. The “04 01 Derelict Building” incident type saw an increase of 1 and “04 06 Derelict Vehicle” saw no (zero) incidents.

## 5.3 Temporal Analysis

Chart 2: Comparison of incidents by Day

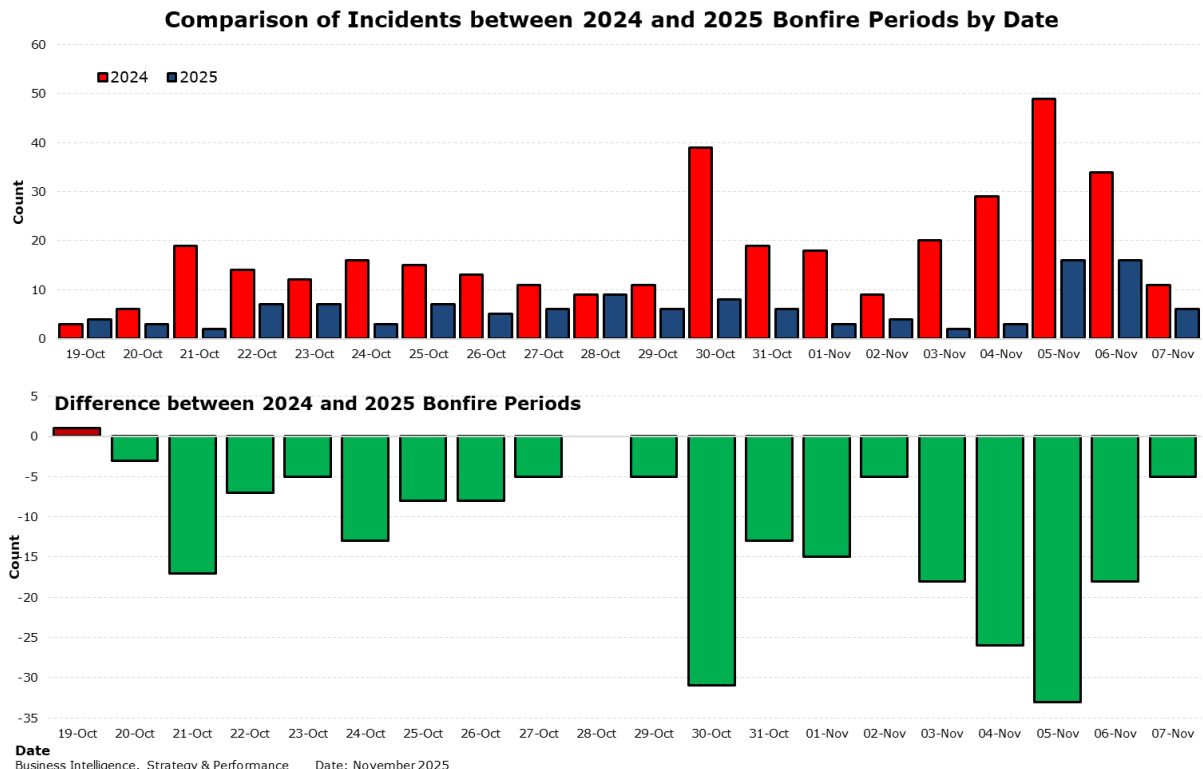


Chart 2 provides a comparison of deliberate secondary fire incidents by day between 2024 and 2025. The chart shows that incidents remained at a low level throughout the period, with the greatest number of incidents jointly occurring on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> November with 16 per day. The pre-Halloween period saw a minor peak in activity, though far lower than the previous year.

The lower chart shows that most days during the period saw a reduction in incidents, except for the 19<sup>th</sup> October, which saw an increase of 1.

Chart 3: Cumulative Analysis of Deliberate Secondary Fires

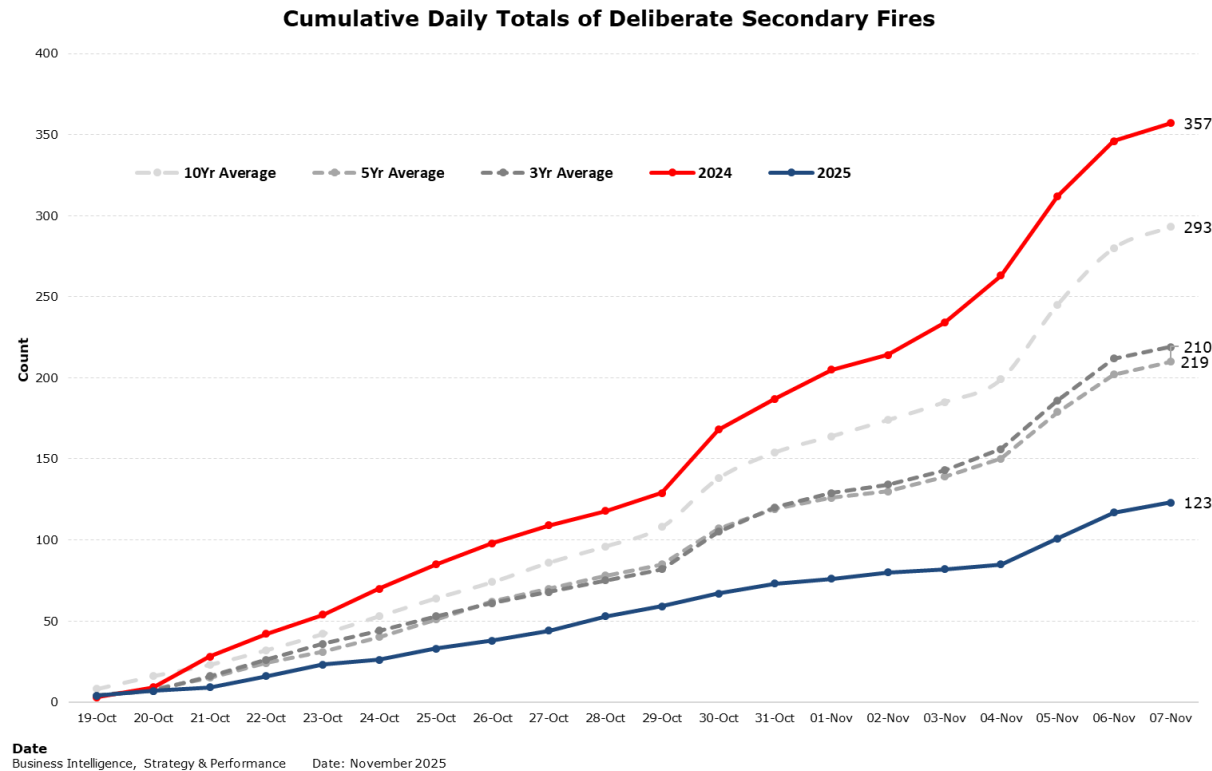


Chart 3 provides a cumulative analysis of deliberate secondary fire incidents through the 2025 period, contrasted with: 2024, and the 3, 5 and 10-year averages. The chart shows that performance for 2025 was exceptional, being far below the other benchmark figures.

Table 2: 5<sup>th</sup> November Analysis

Incident	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
04 01 Derelict Building	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
04 02 Grassland	5	1	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
04 03 Intentional Burning / Bonfire	41	17	21	19	68	11	13	6	29	10
04 04 Outdoor Structure	4	3	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	1
04 05 Refuse Fire	30	39	31	14	10	13	18	18	20	5
04 06 Derelict Vehicle	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grand Total	81	60	58	35	78	26	32	24	49	16
Total for each year	579	392	366	243	268	218	183	173	357	123
% of incidents for 5 November	14.0%	15.3%	15.8%	14.4%	29.1%	11.9%	17.5%	13.9%	13.7%	13.0%

Table 2 identifies that on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2025, 16 deliberate secondary fires were attended, which is two thirds less than the previous year where 49

incidents were attended. This is 80.2% lower than the recent high of 81 in 2016.

## 5.4 Location Analysis

Table 3: Comparison of incidents attended by district, between 2024 and 2025 bonfire periods (*with incidents per 10,000 population*)<sup>5</sup>

District	2024	2025	Change	% Change
Knowsley	40 (2.5)	22 (1.4)	-18 (-1.2)	-45.0%
Liverpool	155 (3.1)	44 (0.9)	-111 (-2.2)	-71.6%
<i>Liverpool North</i>	93	23	-70	-75.3%
<i>Liverpool South</i>	62	21	-41	-66.1%
Sefton	44 (1.6)	12 (0.4)	-32 (-1.1)	-72.7%
St Helens	44 (2.4)	18 (1)	-26 (-1.4)	-59.1%
Wirral	74 (2.3)	27 (0.8)	-47 (-1.5)	-63.5%
<b>Grand Total</b>	357 (2.5)	123 (0.8)	-234 (-1.6)	-65.5%

Table 3 provides a breakdown of incidents attended by district, comparing the 2024 and 2025 periods. In summary, the table provides the following results:

- Knowsley – a decrease of 18 (-45%)
- Liverpool – a decrease of 112 (-71.6%)
  - Liverpool North – fell by 71 (-75.3%)
  - Liverpool South – fell by 41 (-66.1%)
- Sefton – a decrease of 32 (-72.7%)
- St Helens – a decrease of 26 (-59.1%)
- Wirral – a decrease of 47 (-63.5%)

When aggregated to incidents per 10,000 population; Sefton saw the fewest incidents during 2025 with 0.4 incidents per 10,000 population. By contrast, Knowsley, closely followed by St Helens had the greatest numbers with 1.4 and 1 per 10,000 population respectively.

Table 4: Top wards for deliberate secondary fires during 2025 bonfire period

Rank	Ward	District	2024	2025	Change	% Change
1st	Bidston & St James	Wirral	16	10	-6	-37.5%
2nd	Northwood	Knowsley	4	6	2	50.0%
3rd	Garston	Liverpool South	6	5	-1	-16.7%
=4th	Linacre	Sefton	10	4	-6	-60.0%
=4th	Festival Gardens	Liverpool South	2	4	2	100.0%
=6th	Belle Vale	Liverpool South	22	3	-19	-86.4%
=6th	Leasowe & Moreton East	Wirral	8	3	-5	-62.5%
=6th	Page Moss	Knowsley	6	3	-3	-50.0%
=6th	Derby	Sefton	4	3	-1	-25.0%
=6th	Thatto Heath	St Helens	2	3	1	50.0%
=6th	Claughton	Wirral	1	3	2	200.0%
=6th	Halewood North	Knowsley	1	3	2	200.0%

<sup>5</sup> The proportion has been rounded to the one decimal place

Table 4 shows the top 12 wards for deliberate secondary fires during the 2025 bonfire period. The table identifies that Bidston & St James had the largest number of incidents (10) followed by: Northwood (6) and Garston (5).

The table identifies that Wirral, Knowsley and Liverpool South each had wards within the top 12, with 3 each. Sefton had 2 wards and St Helens with 1. In previous years Liverpool North had several wards within the top 12, however this year there were none. This shows how disparate incident locations were within the sub district.

Table 5: Historical Ward Analysis<sup>6</sup>

Rank	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
1	Birkenhead & Tranmere	Springwood	Linacre	Shevington	Vauxhall	Dingle	Birkenhead & Tranmere	Town Centre	Belle Vale	Bidston & St James
2	Town Centre	Seacombe	Cherryfield	Town Centre	Derby	Town Centre	Walton	Birkenhead & Tranmere	Norris Green	Northwood
3	Norris Green	Birkenhead & Tranmere	Northwood	Norris Green	Parr	Bidston & St James	Garston	Speke	Bidston & St James	Garston
4	Bidston & St James	Linacre	Bidston & St James	Northwood	Birkenhead & Tranmere	Norris Green	Rock Ferry	Garston	Birkenhead & Tranmere	Linacre
5	Belle Vale	Croxteth	Walton	Vauxhall	Rock Ferry	Birkenhead & Tranmere	Linacre	Belle Vale	Walton	Festival Gardens
6	Croxteth	Dingle	Birkenhead & Tranmere	Croxteth	Belle Vale	Shevington	Thatto Heath	Bromborough	Sutton	Belle Vale
7	Dingle	Halewood South	Speke	Knotty Ash & Dovecot Park	Northwood	Rock Ferry	Speke	Stockbridge	New Brighton	Leasowe & Moreton East
8	Seacombe	Town Centre	Bromborough	Bold	Garston	Parr	Whiston & Cronton	Cherryfield	Linacre	Page Moss
9	Ford	Cherryfield	Ford	Walton	Speke	County	Earlestown	Northwood	Kensington & Fairfield	Derby
10	Northwood	Norris Green	Norris Green	Dingle	Linacre	West Park	Gateacre	City Centre North	Leasowe & Moreton East	Thatto Heath

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 the top wards in 2025 appear sporadically across other years.

The wards to see the most deliberate secondary fires over the 10 years are Birkenhead & Tranmere (99) followed by Bidston & St James (82), Norris Green (79) and St Helens Town Centre with Belle Vale with 77 each.

Of note Birkenhead & Tranmere and St Helens Town Centre do not appear in the top wards for incidents this year. For information, Birkenhead & Tranmere saw a single incident and St Helens Town Centre saw 2 incidents.

<sup>6</sup> Please see [page 14](#) for a complete list of wards in each district



Chart 4: Comparison of incidents attended by station area

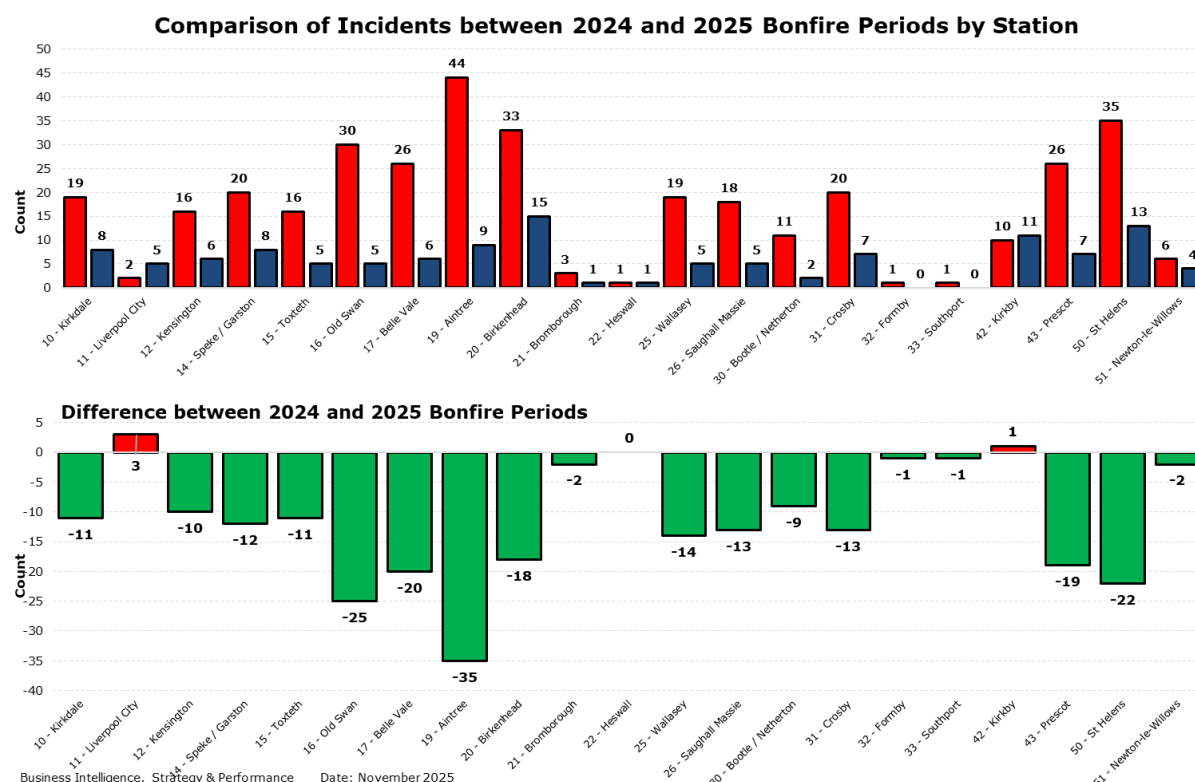


Chart 4 identifies that the vast majority of stations saw reductions in the count of incidents attended. Only 11 – Liverpool City and 42 – Kirkby had minor increases on the year before.

Stations 32 – Formby and 33 – Southport saw no (zero) incidents during the 2025 bonfire period.

## 5.5 Violence at Work

Table 6: Overall counts of Violence at Work by district since 2021

District	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Knowsley	0	3	0	1	1
Liverpool	6	1	2	6	1
Liverpool North	3	1	2	2	0
Liverpool South	3	0	0	4	1
Sefton	1	1	1	0	0
St Helens	0	0	0	0	0
Wirral	1	0	1	3	2
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>

During the 2025 bonfire period there were 4 incidents of violence at work, 6 fewer than the previous year. Over the 5-year period, there was an average of 6 incidents per year, with the majority (16) taking place in Liverpool. There have not been any incidents of violence at work in St Helens over the 5-year period.

It should be noted that though violence at work incidents is an unwanted aspect of the firefighter / arson officer role, it is imperative that all occurrences are

reported as this intelligence allows partner organisations to target areas of risk as well as feeds into risk assessing areas where crews & arson officer teams could be working in future.

Table 7: Details of Violence at Work during 2025 bonfire period

Address	Call Date	Station	District	Ward	Details
STANLEY ROAD, BIRKENHEAD, CH41	22/10/2025 18:32	20	Wirral	Bidston and St James	Youths throwing fireworks at crew and fire appliance
BRACKENDALE, NEW HEY ROAD, WOODCHURCH, CH49	22/10/2025 20:06	26	Wirral	Upton	Youths throwing objects at crew and fire appliance
KNOWSLEY HEIGHTS, PRIMROSE DRIVE, HUYTON, L36	05/11/2025 18:57	43	Knowsley	St. Michaels Ward	Youths targeting fireworks at crew and fire appliance
SPRINGWOOD AVENUE, ALLERTON, LIVERPOOL, L19	05/11/2025 20:51	14	Liverpool South	Springwood	Youths throwing fireworks at crew and fire appliance

## 5.6 Deprivation Analysis

Chart 5: Deliberate Secondary Fires in Relation to Local Deprivation<sup>7</sup>

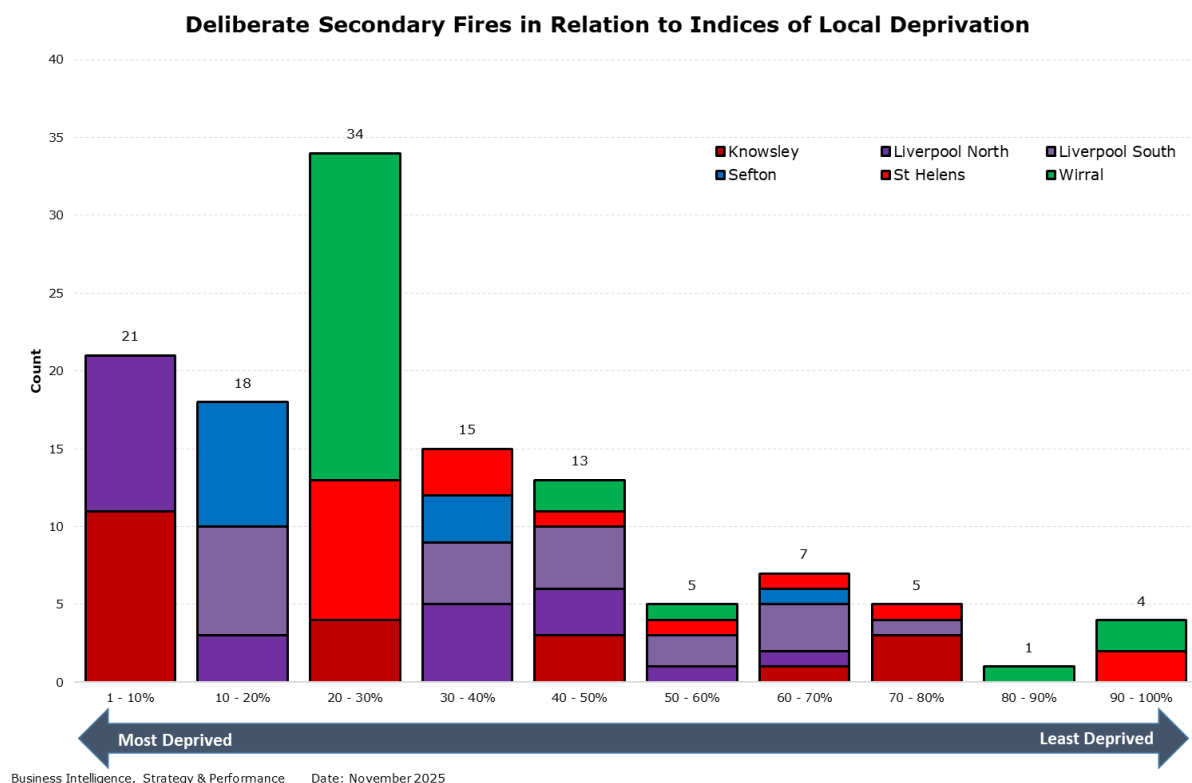


Chart 5 graphically illustrates the link between deliberate secondary fire incidents & areas of deprivation. The chart clearly identifies that more deliberate fire incidents occur in areas of high deprivation as opposed to areas of least deprivation.

<sup>7</sup> The chart axis runs from 1-10% which represents the most deprived areas of Merseyside and 91-100% which represents the least deprived

## **6. Appendices**

The following appendices include: a temporal analysis by day & hour with mapping including brief breakdowns of incidents attended by district, identifying hotspot areas & incidents of note.

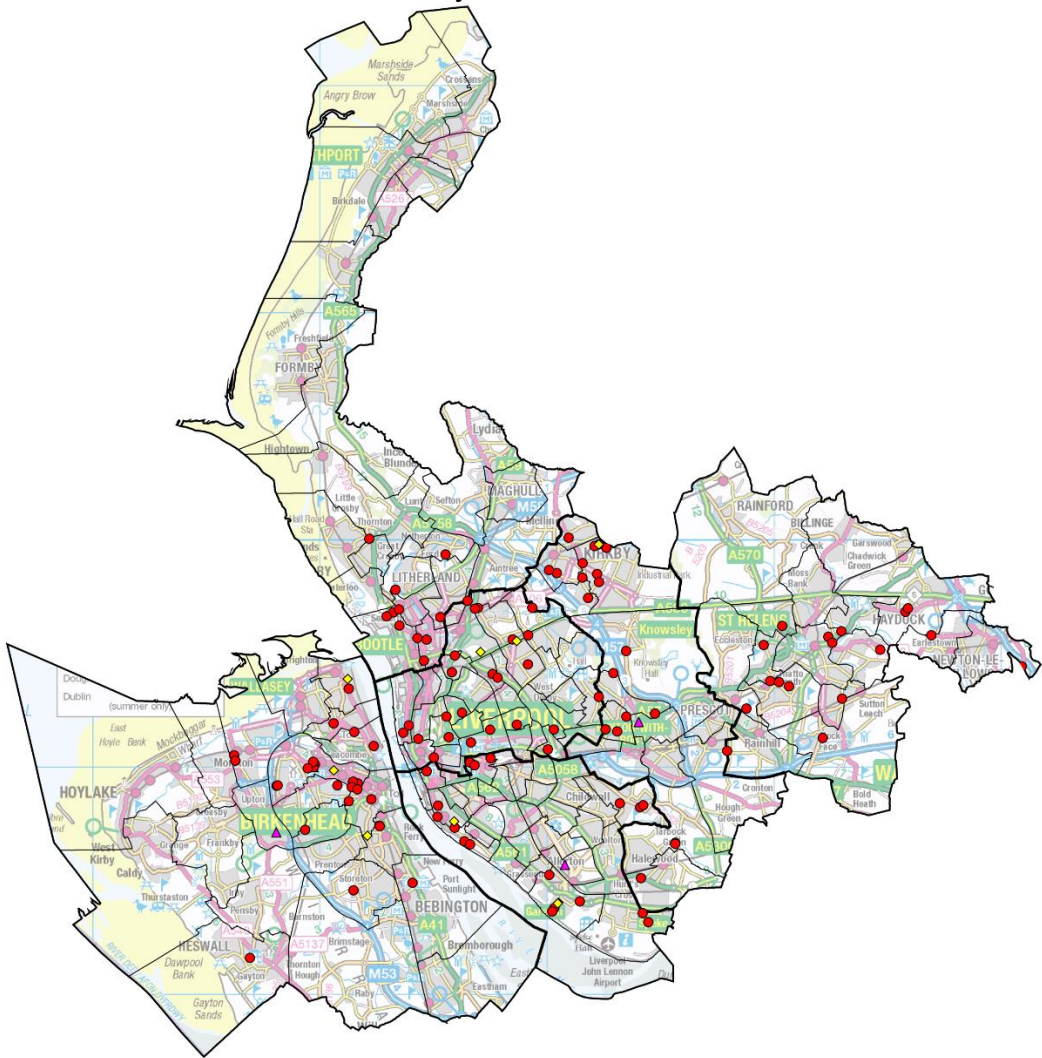
Only wards to have seen more than 1 incident are shown in the maps.

Table 8: Wards by District

Knowsley	Liverpool North	Liverpool South	Sefton	St Helens	Wirral
Cherryfield	Anfield	Aigburth	Ainsdale	Billinge & Seneley Green	Bebington
Halewood North	Broadgreen	Allerton	Birkdale	Blackbrook	Bidston & St James
Halewood South	Brownlow Hill	Arundel	Blundellsands	Bold	Birkenhead & Tranmere
Northwood	City Centre North	Belle Vale	Cambridge	Earlestown	Bromborough
Page Moss	Clubmoor East	Calderstones	Church	Eccleston	Clatterbridge
Prescot North	Clubmoor West	Canning	Derby	Haydock	Claughton
Prescot South	County	Childwall	Dukes	Moss Bank	Eastham
Roby	Croxteth	Church	Ford	Newton	Greasby Frankby & Irby
Shevington	Croxteth County Park	City Centre South	Harington	Parr	Heswall
St. Gabriels	Everton East	Dingle	Kew	Rainford	Hoylake & Meols
St. Michaels	Everton North	Edge Hill	Linacre	Rainhill	Leasowe & Moreton East
Stockbridge	Everton West	Festival Gardens	Litherland	Sutton	Liscard
Swanside	Fazakerley East	Garston	Manor	Thatto Heath	Moreton West & Saughall Massie
Whiston & Cronton	Fazakerley North	Gateacre	Meols	Town Centre	New Brighton
Whitefield	Fazakerley West	Grassendale & Cressington	Molyneux	West Park	Oxton
	Kensington & Fairfield	Greenbank Park	Netherton & Orrell	Windle	Pensby & Thingwall
	Kirkdale East	Mossley Hill	Norwood		Prenton
	Kirkdale West	Much Woolton & Hunts Cross	Park Sefton		Rock Ferry
	Knotty Ash & Dovecot Park	Penny Lane	Ravenmeols		Seacombe
	Norris Green	Princes Park	St Oswald		Upton
	Old Swan East	Sefton Park	Sudell		Wallasey
	Old Swan West	Smithdown	Victoria		West Kirby & Thurstaston
	Orrell Park	Speke			
	Sandfield Park	Springwood			
	Tuebrook Breckside Park	St Michaels			
	Tuebrook Larkhill	Toxteth			
	Vauxhall	Waterfront South			
	Walton	Wavertree Garden Suburb			
	Waterfront North	Wavertree Village			
	West Derby Deysbrook	Woolton Village			
	West Derby Leyfield				
	West Derby Muirhead				
	Yew Tree				

Map 1: Geographical Breakdown of Incidents across Merseyside

- Legend:**
- Incidents
  - ▲ Fireworks
  - ◆ Violence At Work
  - ▭ District Boundary
  - ▭ Ward Boundary

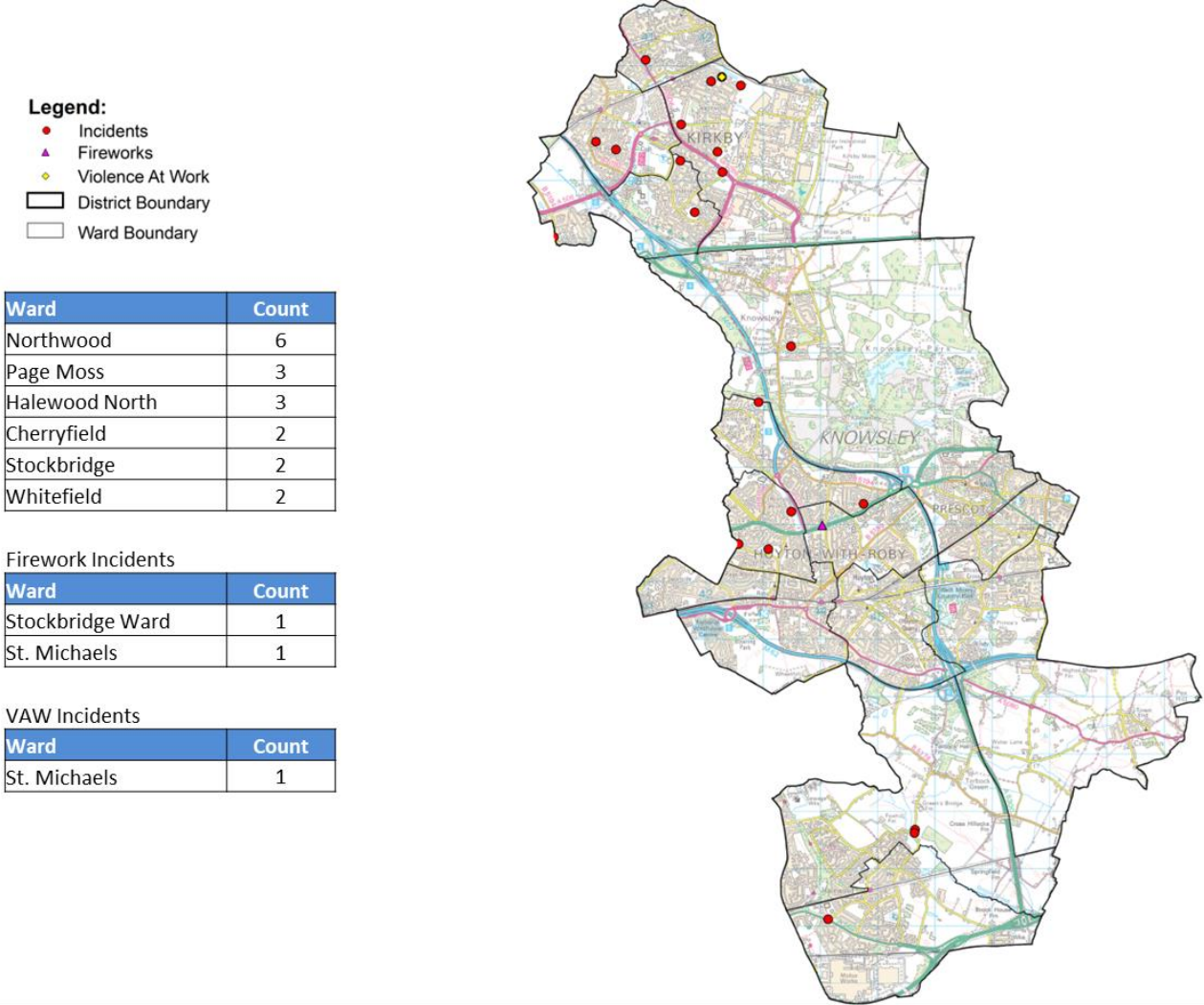


Distribution of Deliberate Secondary Fires 2025 Bonfire Period overlaid with incidents of Violence at Work and Fireworks

Author: Business Intelligence, Strategy & Performance    Date: 14/11/2025    Produced Using MapInfo  
Map Reference:  
© Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey AC0000806710



Map 2: Geographical Breakdown of Incidents in Knowsley

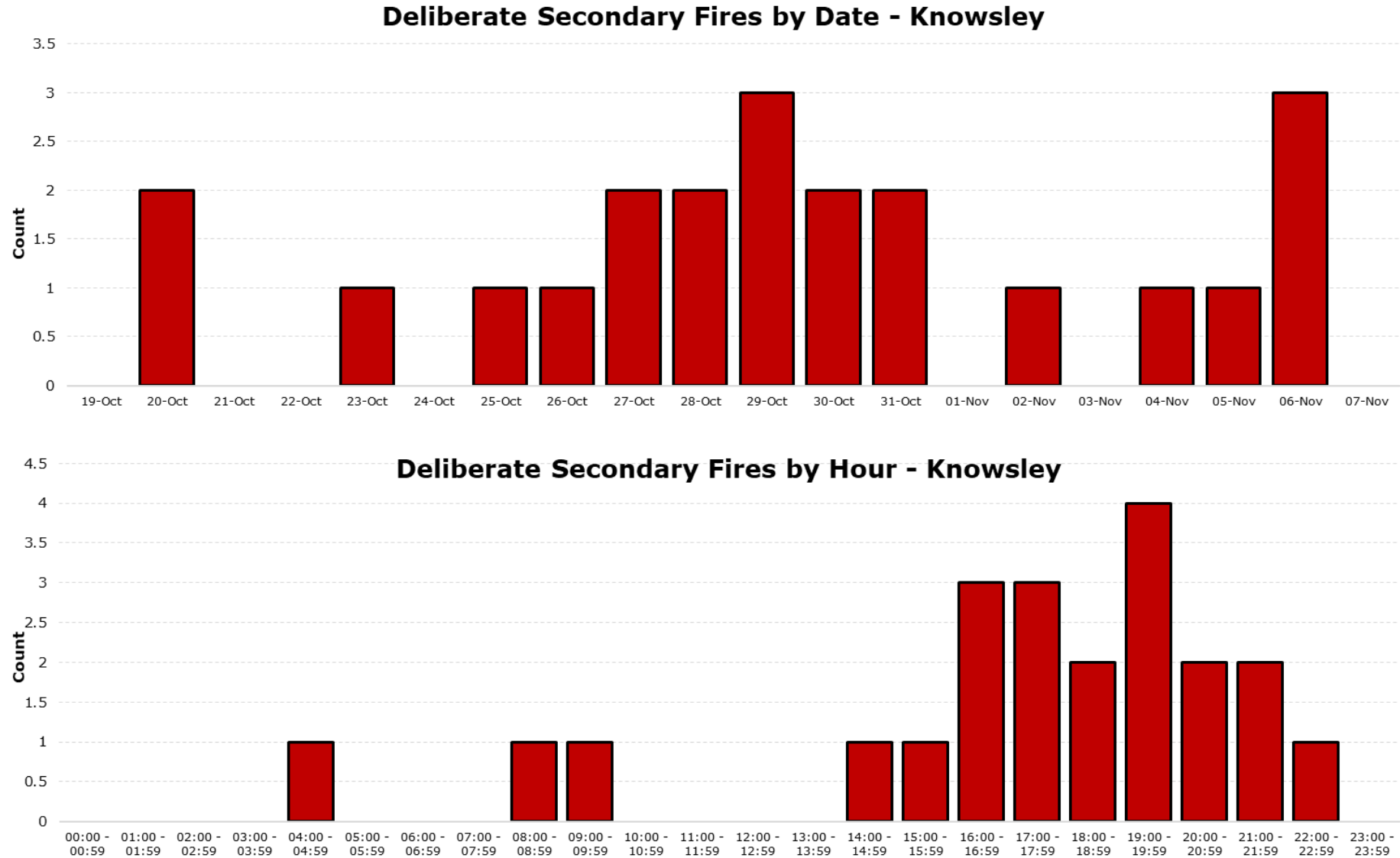


Distribution of Deliberate Secondary Fires in Knowsley during 2025 Bonfire Period overlaid with incidents of Violence at Work and Fireworks

Author: Business Intelligence, Strategy & Performance    Date: 14/11/2025    Produced Using MapInfo  
Map Reference:  
© Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey AC0000806710



Chart 5: Temporal Breakdown of Incidents in Knowsley





Map 2: Geographical Breakdown of Incidents in Liverpool North



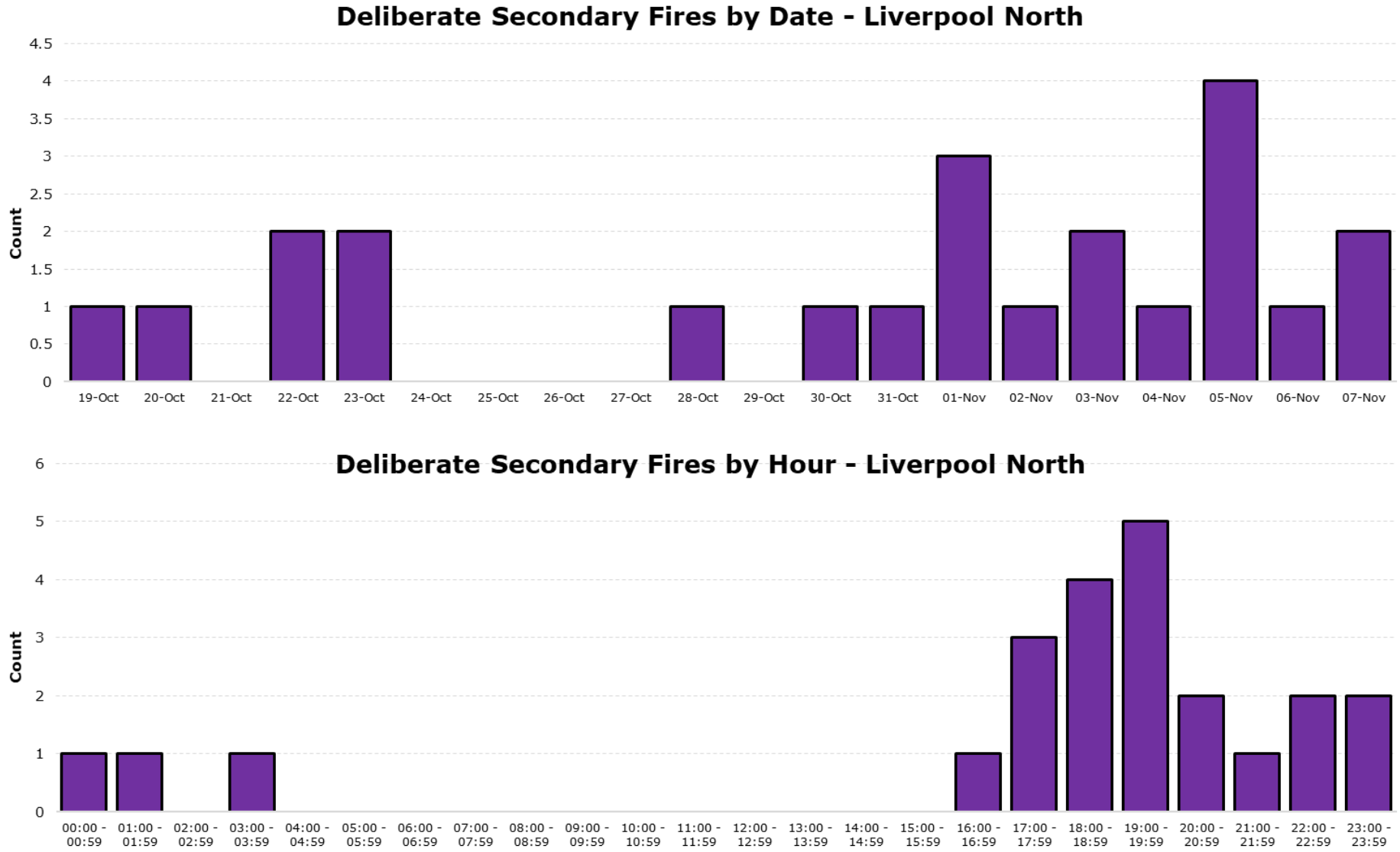
Distribution of Deliberate Secondary Fires in North Liverpool during 2025 Bonfire Period overlaid with incidents of Violence at Work and Fireworks

Author: Business Intelligence, Strategy & Performance    Date: 14/11/2025    Produced Using MapInfo  
Map Reference:  
© Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey AC0000806710





Chart 6: Temporal Breakdown of Incidents in Liverpool North



Map 3: Geographical Breakdown of Incidents in Liverpool South

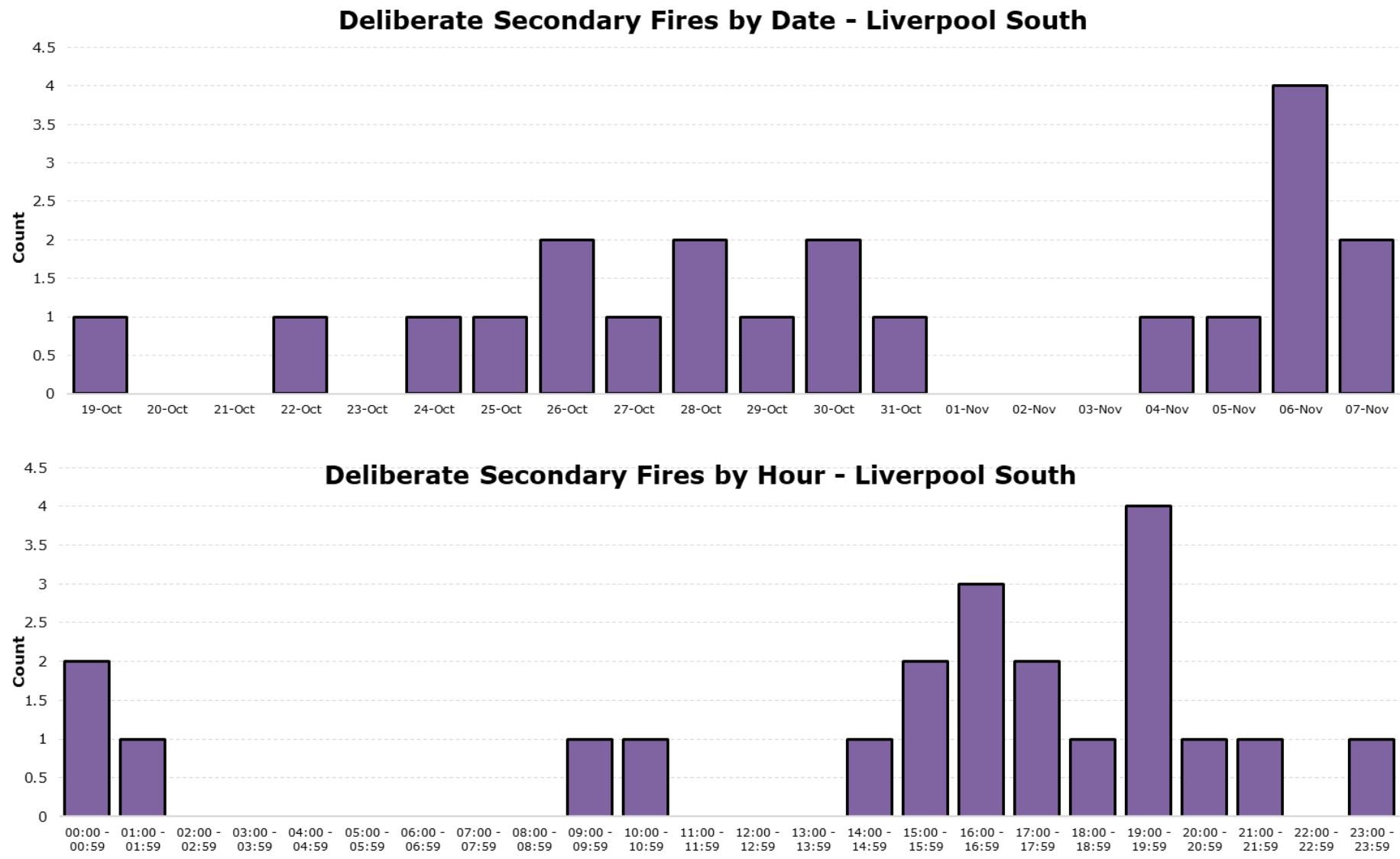


Distribution of Deliberate Secondary Fires in South Liverpool during 2025 Bonfire Period overlaid with incidents of Violence at Work and Fireworks

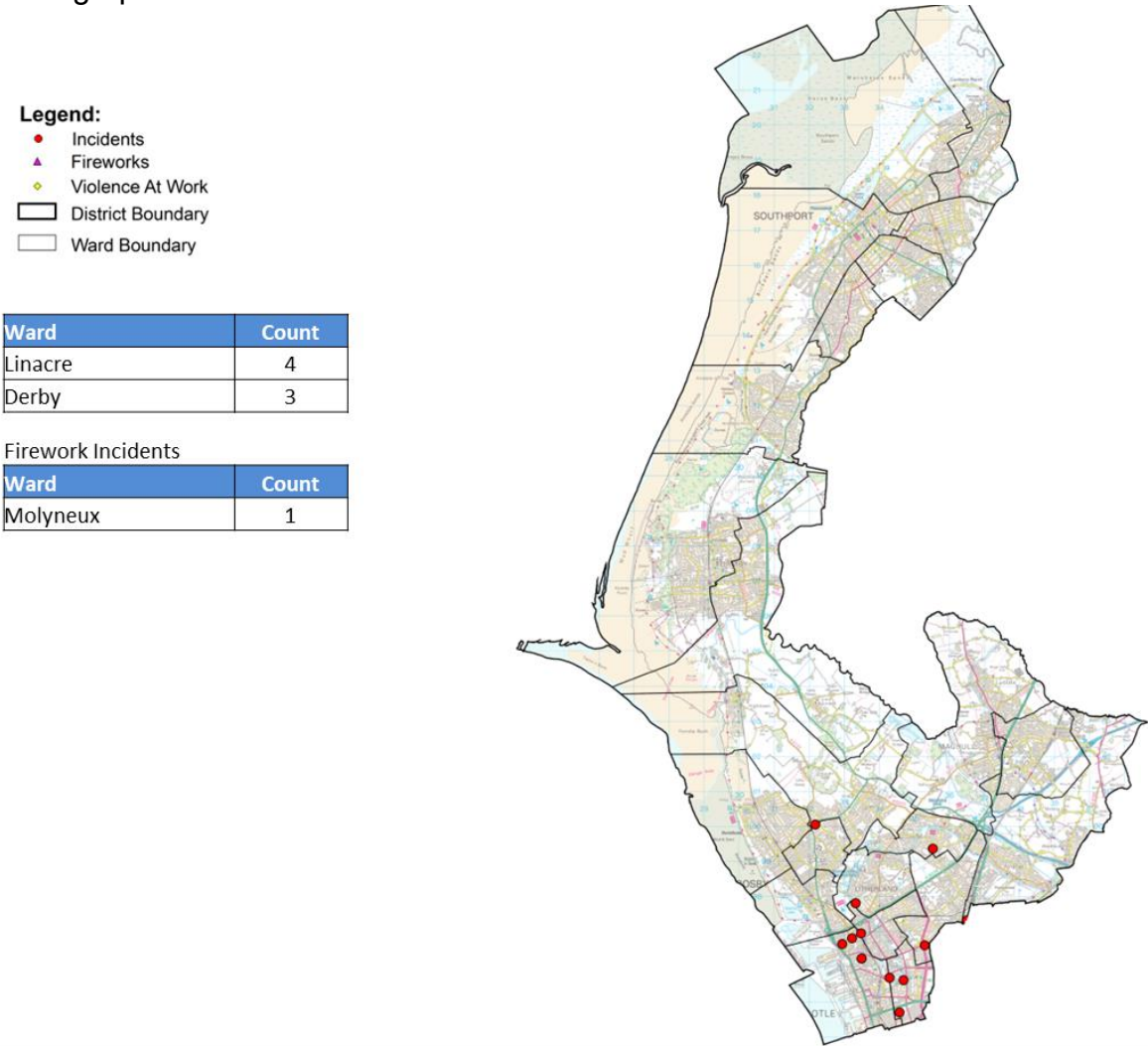
Author: Business Intelligence, Strategy & Performance    Date: 14/11/2025    Produced Using MapInfo  
Map Reference:  
© Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey AC0000806710



Chart 7: Temporal Breakdown of Incidents in Liverpool South



Map 4: Geographical Breakdown of Incidents in Sefton

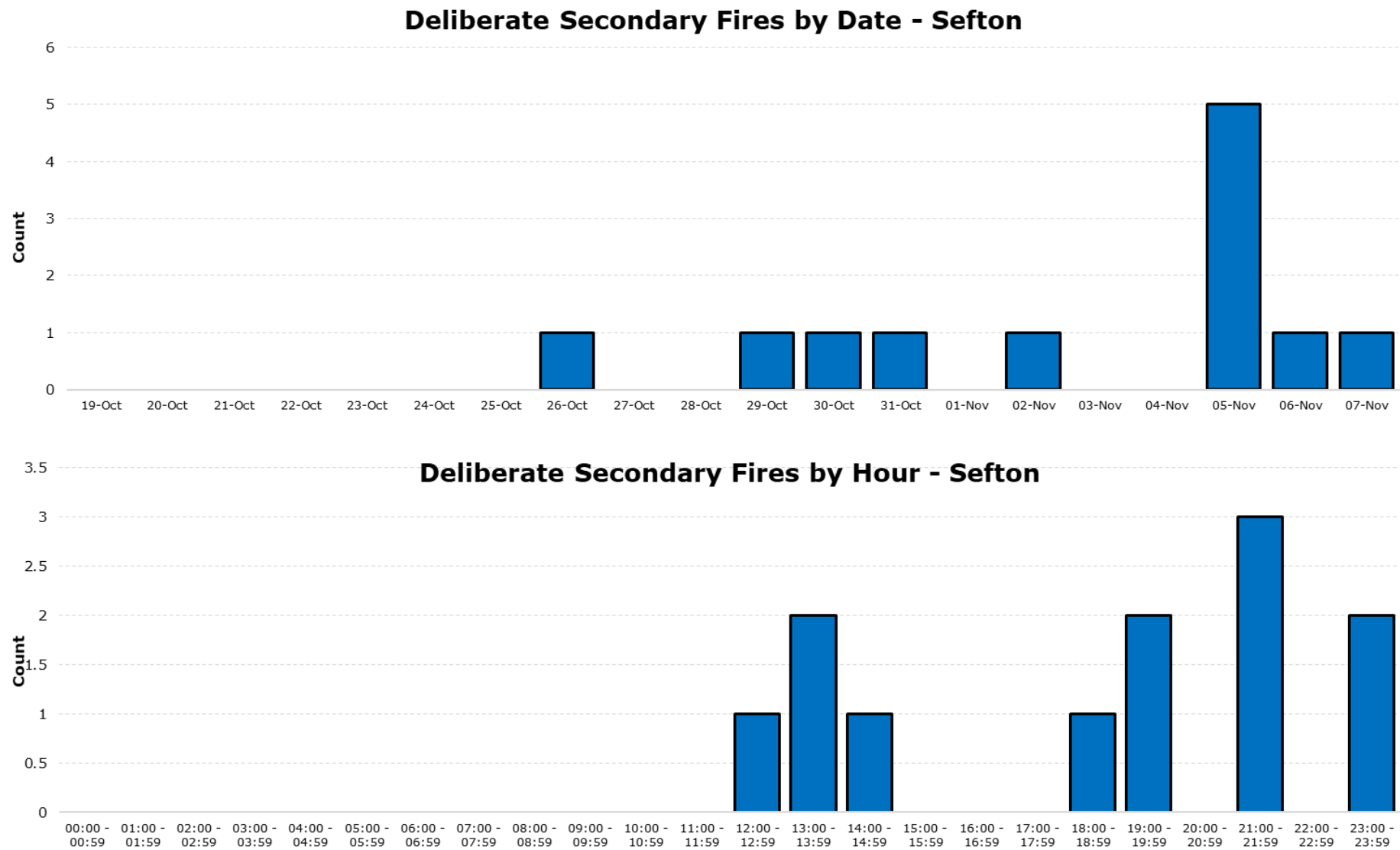


Distribution of Deliberate Secondary Fires in Sefton during 2025 Bonfire Period overlaid with incidents of Violence at Work and Fireworks

Author: Business Intelligence, Strategy & Performance    Date: 14/11/2025    Produced Using MapInfo  
Map Reference:  
© Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey AC0000806710



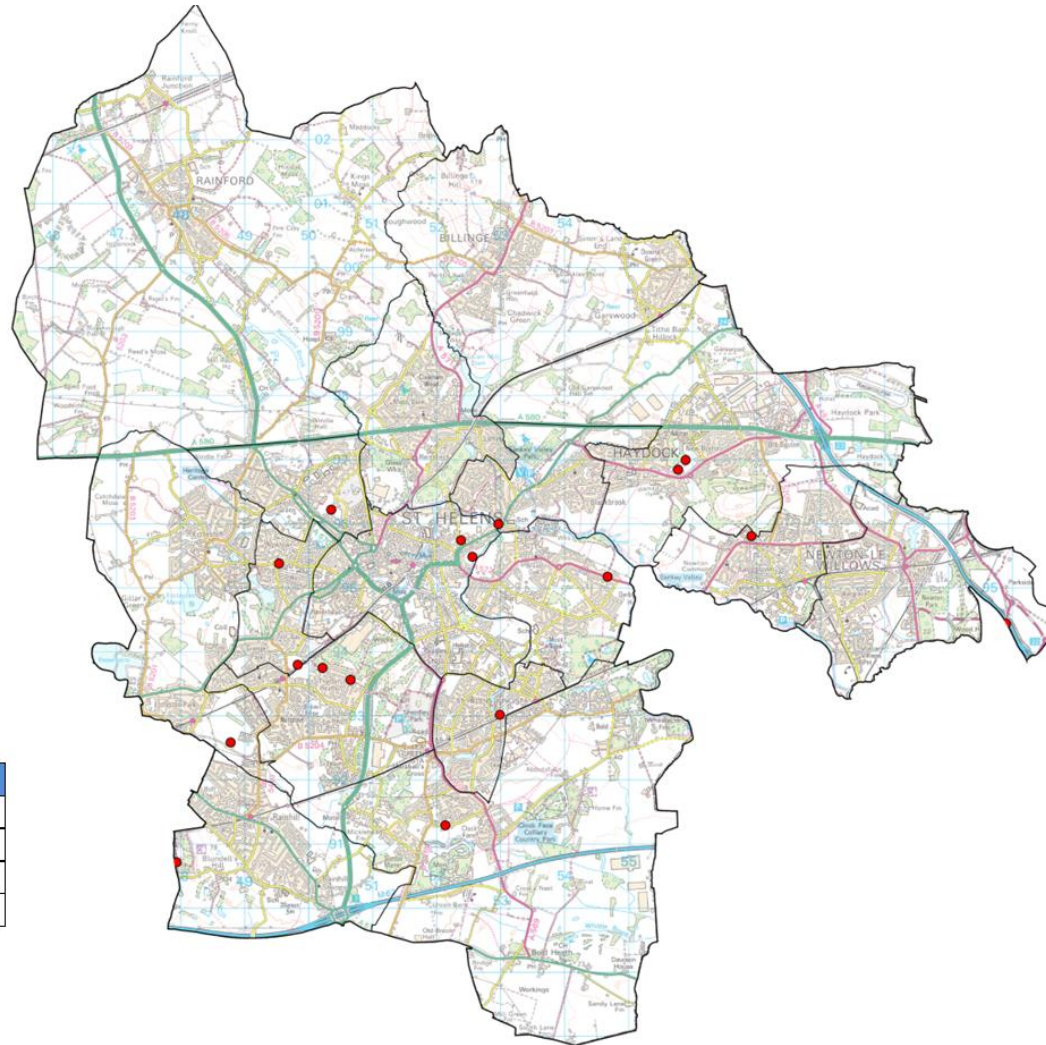
Chart 8: Temporal Breakdown of Incidents in Sefton



Map 5: Geographical Breakdown of Incidents in St Helens



- Legend:**
- Incidents
  - ▲ Fireworks
  - ◆ Violence At Work
  - ▭ District Boundary
  - ▭ Ward Boundary



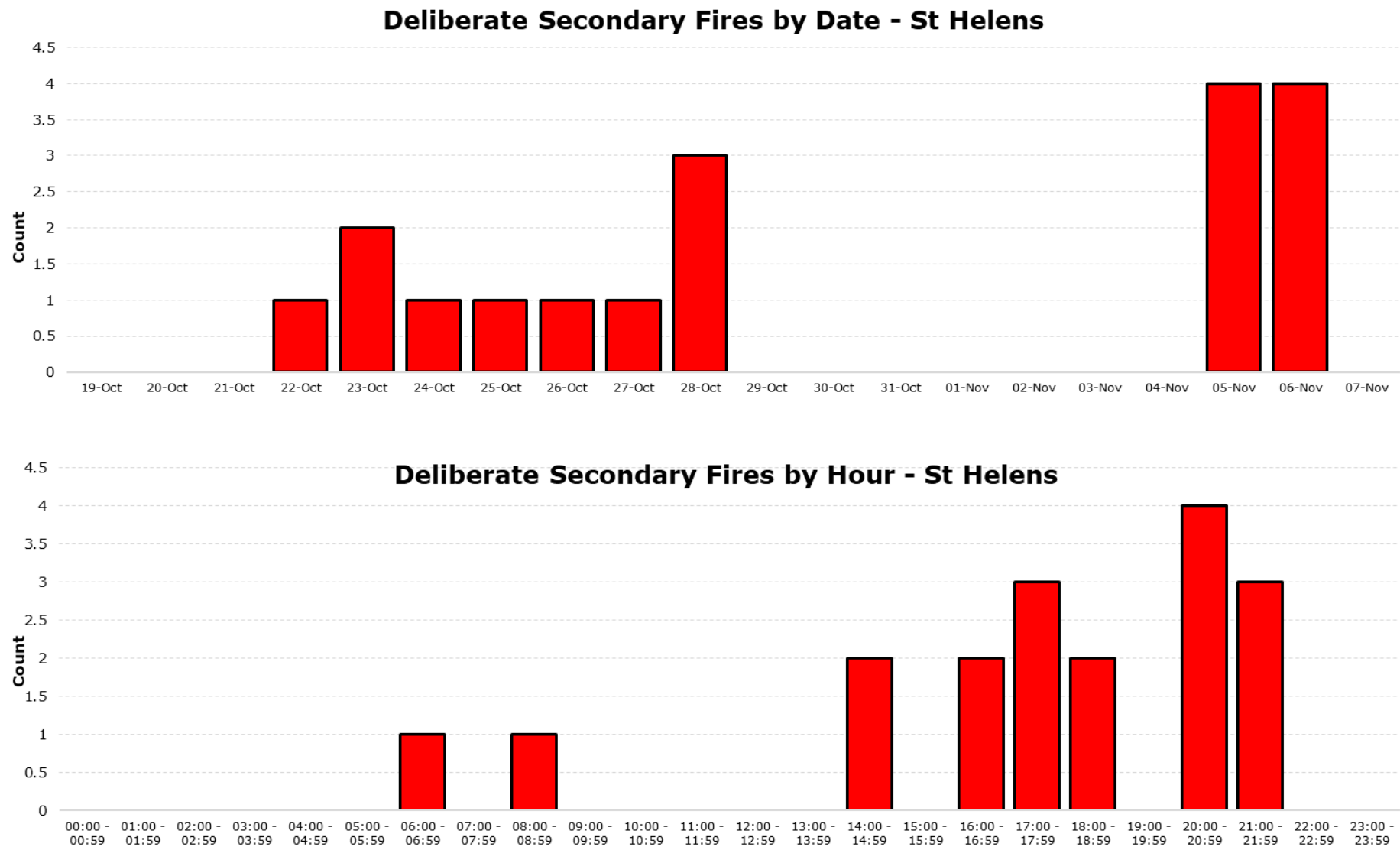
Ward	Count
Thatto Heath	3
Town Centre	2
West Park	2
Haydock	2

## Distribution of Deliberate Secondary Fires in St Helens during 2025 Bonfire Period overlaid with incidents of Violence at Work and Fireworks

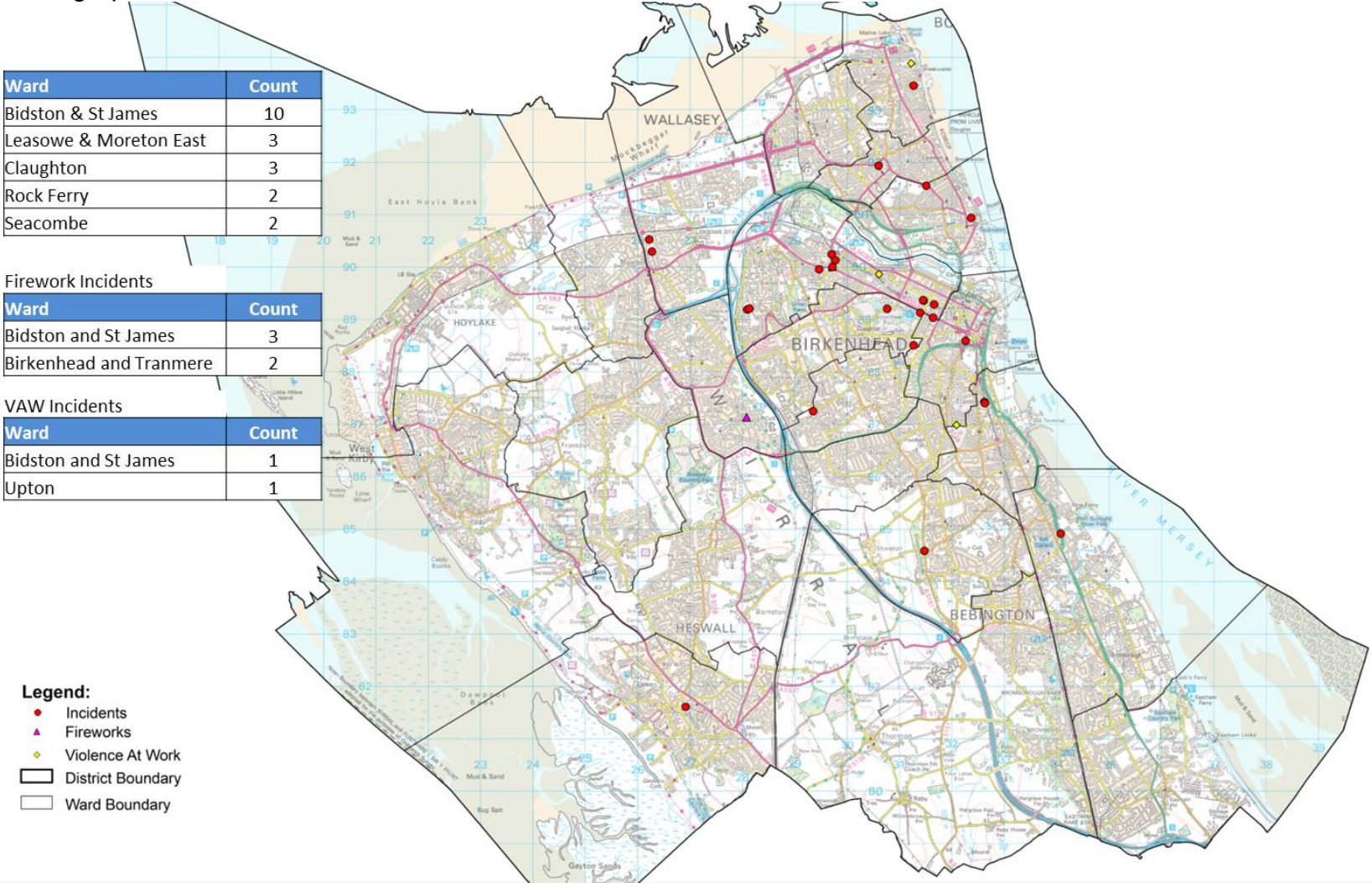
Author: Business Intelligence, Strategy & Performance    Date: 14/11/2025    Produced Using MapInfo  
Map Reference:  
© Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey AC0000806710



Chart 9: Temporal Breakdown of Incidents in St Helens



Map 6: Geographical Breakdown of Incidents in Wirral

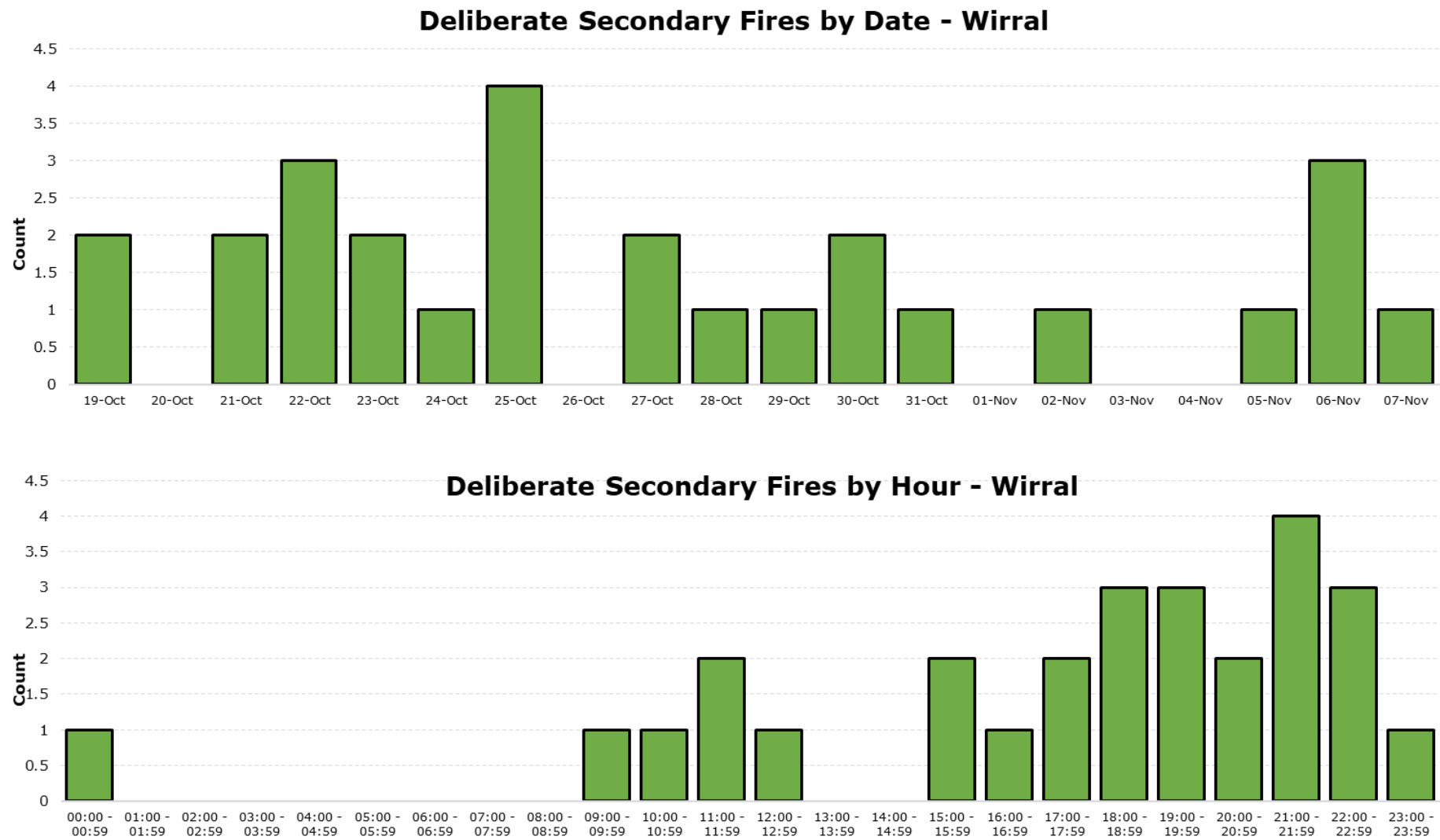


Distribution of Deliberate Secondary Fires in Wirral during 2025 Bonfire Period overlaid with incidents of Violence at Work and Fireworks

Author: Business Intelligence, Strategy & Performance Date: 14/11/2025 Produced Using MapInfo  
Map Reference:  
© Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey AC0000806710



Chart 10: Temporal Breakdown of Incidents in Wirral



This page is intentionally left blank

MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY			
MEETING OF THE:	COMMUNITY SAFETY AND PROTECTION COMMITTEE		
DATE:	5 FEBRUARY 2026	REPORT NO:	CFO/38/2526
PRESENTING OFFICER	CHIEF FIRE OFFICER, NICK SEARLE		
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	AREA MANAGER, DAVID WATSON	REPORT AUTHOR:	GROUP MANAGER, MICHAEL DALE
OFFICERS CONSULTED:	HYWYN PRITCHARD, MARTIN ROBERTS, PAUL HITCHEN, HVP CAPABILITY TEAM, STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP TEAM (SLT)		
TITLE OF REPORT:	ND2 PROCUREMENT: HVP HOSE		
APPENDICES:	NONE		

## Purpose of Report

1. To inform Members of the outcome of the procurement exercise and to seek authorisation to procure 39km of 150mm HVP hose, as part of the New Dimensions 2 (ND2) Programme that supports National Resilience.

## Recommendation

2. It is recommended that Members;
  - a) note the contents of the report; and
  - b) approve the award of the contract to Mandals AS, at a total cost of £886,580.

## Introduction and Background

3. ND2 is a national capability uplift programme that supports National Resilience (NR). The programme is authorised and funded by UK Government via the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), and Merseyside Fire & Rescue Authority (MFRA) are the Lead Authority for NR. Part of the national capability provides assets for High Volume Pumps (HVP) – Flood Response.
4. The original New Dimension programme identified and delivered national assets which enhanced the Fire & Rescue response to a range of catastrophic incidents, including natural and deliberate events, and specifically included response to wide area flooding following extreme weather events and other disasters.
5. The HVP Capability currently have 46 HVP first response assets, supported by a number of strategically located support assets. The assets are primarily used to meet the risks and threats from both wide-area flooding and major fires, recent

examples being Toddbrook Reservoir to prevent a catastrophic collapse of the dam after heavy rainfall, and in 2014 the Somerset Levels and Thames Valley area floods, where the assets were used extensively. Additionally, although not related to National Resilience, HVPs are often deployed to support local incidents to enhance the water strategy plan.

6. Following a strategic review of the capability, a major asset refresh is underway of some of the ageing assets, and the hose that supports the capability is in need of replacement. National Resilience currently have 138km of 150mm hose. 46km of hose was replaced approximately 5 years ago. The HVP strategic review will see a reduction in hose from 138 to 78km, therefore intends to procure 39km of 150mm hose to ensure the continued operational status of the capability and provide a small over capacity for spares and damages.
7. The procurement of the hose forms part of a range of solutions in the wider project of ND2 and will enhance the HVP response capability. The hose will be available via the primary asset, the High Volume Pump.
8. A mini competition was held under the YPO framework for Emergency Response and Rescue Equipment. Four suppliers responded to the Invitation to Tender, two were invited to equipment trials, following which the preferred bidder was selected.

---

#### **Equality and Diversity Implications**

---

9. There are no identified equality or diversity implications related to the procurement. The specification ensures it would meet all current operating requirements for the HVP assets and would effectively provide a replacement asset of an ageing piece of equipment
10. The selection ensures safe operation in HVP flood environments, ensuring safety across all personnel roles regardless of background, identity or physical characteristics.

---

#### **Staff Implications**

---

11. All staff are already trained in the use of the equipment, and no further training is necessary.

---

#### **Legal Implications**

---

12. Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service Procurement Department have identified the route to market as a further competition under Category 2 – Hoses, Pumps and Associated - Products/Services of Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation's DPS for Emergency Response and Rescue Equipment, Reference Number 1110.

---

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

---

13. Funding for the hose is provided by MHCLG as part of the ND2 HVP project.

14. The procurement of HVP hose comes to a total cost of £886,580.

---

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

---

15. Risk management for the procurement and implementation is monitored and addressed by the ND2 Programme. Standard operating procedures will be developed and assured along with training, and risk assessments completed, prior to mobilisation and operational deployment.

---

### **Environmental Implications**

---

16. The procurement aligns with environmental protection goals by enhancing the current capability. This will assist communities in restoration to normality following extreme weather events.

---

**Contribution to Our Vision:** *To be the best Fire & Rescue Service in the UK.*

---

**Our Purpose:** *Here to serve, Here to protect, Here to keep you safe.*

---

17. The recommendation supports the Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service's vision and purpose by allowing crews to respond faster, more effectively, and contribute to the saving of lives. It ensures responder and public safety during complex emergency operations, thereby reducing the impact on communities, and improves resilience and readiness for major incidents.

---

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

---

**NONE**

---

### **GLOSSARY OF TERMS**

---

<b>MFRA</b>	<b>M</b> erseyside <b>F</b> ire and <b>R</b> escue <b>A</b> uthority
<b>MFRS</b>	<b>M</b> erseyside <b>F</b> ire and <b>R</b> escue <b>S</b> ervice
<b>MHCLG</b>	<b>M</b> inistry of <b>H</b> ousing, <b>C</b> ommunities and <b>L</b> ocal <b>G</b> overnment
<b>ND2</b>	<b>N</b> ew <b>D</b> imensions <b>2</b> Programme
<b>NR</b>	<b>N</b> ational <b>R</b> esilience
<b>HVP</b>	<b>H</b> igh <b>V</b> olume <b>P</b> ump

This page is intentionally left blank

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A  
of the Local Government Act 1972.

This report is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank