

Public Document Pack

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

**J. Henshaw
LLB (Hons)
Clerk to the Authority**

Tel: 0151 296 4000
Extn: 4112 Helen Peek

Your ref:

Our ref HP/NP

Date: 9 October 2013

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 **THURSDAY, 17TH
OCTOBER, 2013** in the Wirral Suite at Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service
Headquarters, Bridle Road, Bootle.

Yours faithfully,



Clerk to the Authority

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MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY
COMMUNITY SAFETY AND PROTECTION COMMITTEE

17 OCTOBER 2013

AGENDA

Members

Linda Maloney (Chair)
Vi Bebb
John Kelly
Jimmy Mahon
Barbara Murray
Tony Newman
Jean Stapleton
Lesley Rennie

1. Preliminary matters

The Committee is 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 1 - 4)

The proceedings of the last meeting of the Community Safety & Protection Committee, held on 11th July 2013, are submitted for approval as a correct record and for signature by the Chair.

3. Primary Authority Scheme Pilot Update (Pages 5 - 8)

(CFO/118/13)

To consider report CFO/118/13 of the Deputy Chief Fire Officer concerning the outcome of the Primary Authority Scheme (PAS) Pilot and the subsequent decision made by Government to extend the PAS to include the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (the Fire Safety Order).

4. **Dry Riser Testing Update** (Pages 9 - 18)

(CFO/119/13)

To consider Report CFO/119/13 and associated Equality Impact Assessment of the Deputy Chief Fire Officer, concerning an update on the delivery of the Dry Riser testing service on a cost recovery basis.

5. **Bonfire Plan 2013** (Pages 19 - 36)

(CFO/120/13)

To consider Report CFO/120/13 and associated Equality Impact Assessment of the Deputy Chief Fire Officer, concerning Bonfire Planning for 2013.

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****11 JULY 2013****MINUTES**

Present: Cllr Linda Maloney (Chair) Councillors Vi Bebb, Jimmy Mahon, Jean Stapleton and Les Byrom

Apologies of absence were received from: Councillors John Kelly, Barbara Murray, Tony Newman and Lesley Rennie

1. Preliminary matters

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

- a) there were no declarations of interest by individual Members in relation to any item of business of the agenda;
- b) there were no additional items of business which the Chair had determined to be considered as matters of urgency;
- c) there were no items of business which required 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

As this was the first meeting of the Community Safety & Protection Committee for 2013/14, there were no Minutes of previous meetings for consideration and approval.

3. CFOA National Road Safety Awareness Week

(CFO/083/13)

Members considered Report CFO/083/13 of the Deputy Chief Fire Officer, concerning the success of the Chief Fire Officer's Association National Road Safety Awareness week in May 2013.

Members Resolved:

That the content of the report be noted.

4. Winter Warm Emergency Heating Initiative

(CFO/085/13)

Members considered Report CFO/085/13 of the Deputy Chief Fire Officer, concerning the Winter Warm Emergency Heating Project and delivery method for 2013/14.

Members Resolved:

- (a) That the content of the report be noted.
- (b) That a report be brought back to a future meeting of the Committee;
 - i. concerning initiatives and services currently provided through external funding; and
 - ii. highlighting the impact that cuts to this funding may have on the Authority's ability to continue providing such services and initiatives to the community.

5. Hate Crime Policy

(CFO/084/13)

Members considered Report CFO/084/13 and associated Equality Impact Assessment of the Deputy Chief Fire Officer, concerning the implementation of a Hate Crime Policy.

Members Resolved:

That the introduction of the Hate Crime Policy (attached as Appendix A); and subsequent Service Instructions relating to hate crime, Safe Havens, target hardening and arson incident recording, be approved.

6. National Resilience Assurance of MFRA USAR Capability

Members considered Report CFO/087/13 of the Chief Fire Officer, concerning a summary of the findings determined by the National Resilience Assurance Team (NRAT), following their recent assurance and audit of Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority's Urban Search And Rescue (USAR) Capability.

Members Resolved:

- (a) The content of the report be noted.
- (b) The appreciation of the Committee to all staff involved in the audit, be formally recorded.
- (c) The thanks and appreciation of the Committee to all involved in the recent UKRO Challenge, which proved to be a huge success, be placed on record.

Close

Date of next meeting Thursday, 17 October 2013

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AGENDA ITEM:

REPORT TO: Meeting of the	MERSEYSIDE FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY COMMUNITY SAFETY & PROTECTION COMMITTEE
DATE:	17TH OCTOBER 2013
REPORT NO.	CFO/118/13
REPORTING OFFICER:	DEPUTY CHIEF FIRE OFFICER
CONTACT OFFICER:	AM MYLES PLATT – DIRECTOR OF PREVENTION & PROTECTION, EXTN; 4644
OFFICERS CONSULTED:	GM GUY KEEN AND SARAH BOURNE, DEPUTY CLERK TO THE AUTHORITY
SUBJECT:	PRIMARY AUTHORITY SCHEME PILOT UPDATE

THERE ARE NO APPENDICES TO THIS REPORT

Purpose of Report

1. To update Members on the outcome of the Primary Authority Scheme (PAS) Pilot and the subsequent decision made by Government to extend the PAS to include the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (the Fire Safety Order).

Recommendations

2. That Members note the outcome of the Pilot, the decision made by Government and the implications for the Authority.

Introduction & Background

3. The Primary Authority Scheme (PAS) aims to provide consistency across Local Authority regulators, in order to support businesses to deliver against the economic growth agenda. Over 600 businesses have entered into a PAS arrangement and that number is expected to increase following the proposed extension of the scheme into other regulatory areas, such as the Fire Safety Order. The Regulatory Enforcement and Sanctions Act (RESA) Part 2 was established as a statutory means to secure greater coordination and consistency of enforcement and activity by Local Authority regulators, thereby providing companies with confidence to invest and develop economic growth. The Fire Safety Order was exempt from the provision of part 2 by statutory instrument.
4. PAS was introduced by way of the Regulatory Enforcement and Sanctions Act (RESA) 2008 part 2, as part of the Better Regulation Agenda, established following the publication of Sir Phillip Hampton's report in 2005 'Reducing administrative burdens: effective inspection and enforcement.

5. Government made a commitment to review the situation after a three year period. In 2011, following consultation on the extension of the PAS a proposal was made to introduce pilots to see whether and how Primary Authority could fit alongside current fire safety legislation and enforcement mechanisms.
6. The Fire Minister, Brandon Lewis MP, decided, following a meeting between Ministers for DCLG and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) that a six month pilot would be conducted commencing 1 January 2013, followed by an independent evaluation, delivered by BIS to include the Fire Safety Order .
7. The pilot involved the inclusion of a number of Fire and Rescue Services in a statutory scheme managed and governed by the Better Regulation Delivery Office (BRDO) and a non-statutory scheme managed and governed by CFOA.
8. The Authority took part in the Statutory Pilot scheme with 2 companies, Superdrug and Ladbrokes. This involved seconding a Fire Protection Officer into both organisations to provide assured advice and guidance, quality assured and managed by BRDO.
9. Following the pilot, BRDO issued advice to Fire and Rescue Services stating that no new partnerships should commence until the scheme was implemented in full, however they stated that partnership arrangements established during the pilot should be maintained, albeit in an arbitrary fashion.
10. ACL Consulting was appointed as the independent evaluators of the pilot schemes. They conducted the evaluation process throughout the pilot and submitted a report to Ministers at the end of July 2013.
11. Following a meeting in August 2013 between the Fire Minister Brandon Lewis and the BIS Minister Michael Fallon the decision was taken to extend PAS to include the Fire Safety Order on a statutory basis with a planned implementation date of April 2014.
12. CFOA will play an important role with BRDO in coordinating the scheme and a PAS pilot “lessons learned” event will be held by CFOA in the near future.

Equality & Diversity Implications

13. An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed in advance of the PAS Pilot. This will be amended to reflect the outcome of the pilot along with the provision of a Service Instruction prior to April 2014.

Staff Implications

14. Any additional burden on staff created by the request of third parties for MFRA to enter into a contract to become the Primary Authority on their behalf shall, in the first instance, be provided from existing resources, subject to demand, when at

which point potential recruitment will be considered, costs of which would be provided by the third party.

Legal Implications

15. To enable more businesses to benefit from clearer advice and more consistent enforcement, it is anticipated that Primary Authority is to be extended under the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act 2013 to include the Fire Safety Order.
16. The Authority would be nominated as a Primary Authority either by agreement or if nominated by BRDO. Prior to being nominated as a Primary Authority BRDO must consult with the Authority and BRDO must have regard to any representations made by the Authority as to the resources available to it.
17. There are implications in that there may be a conflict of interest for the Authority as the Enforcing Authority as well as the Primary Authority giving advice. The Authority must ensure that this potential conflict is avoided at each and every point.

Financial Implications & Value for Money

18. As indicated in paragraph 14, should there be request for the Authority to become the Primary Authority then costs associated with making that provision are charged to clients under the charging scheme set out in the PAS guidance by BRDO.

Risk Management, Health & Safety, and Environmental Implications

19. Any request for the Authority to become the Primary Authority cannot reasonably be refused subject to the statutory guidance. This does not preclude the Authority from its statutory requirement to have a risk based audit programme contained within its IRMP.

Contribution to Achieving Our Mission:

“Safer Stronger Communities – Safe Effective Firefighters”

20. The inclusion of the Fire Safety Order in the PAS aims to provide consistency and clarity, advice and guidance for responsible persons in the management of their premises thus enhancing safety for Authority staff and the public in the built environment.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

N/A

Glossary of Terms

PAS	Primary Authority Scheme
RESA	Regulatory Enforcement Sanctions Act
BRDO	Better Regulation Delivery office
BIS	Business Innovation and Skills
RRO	Regulatory Reform Order
CFOA	Chief Fire Officers Association
MP	Member of Parliament
IRMP	Integrated Risk Management Plan

AGENDA ITEM:

REPORT TO: Meeting of the	MERSEYSIDE FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY COMMUNITY SAFETY & PROTECTION COMMITTEE
DATE:	17TH OCTOBER 2013
REPORT NO.	CFO/119/13
REPORTING OFFICER:	DEPUTY CHIEF FIRE OFFICER PHIL GARRIGAN
CONTACT OFFICER:	AM MYLES PLATT – DIRECTOR OF PREVENTION & PROTECTION, EXTN: 4644
OFFICERS CONSULTED:	KEVIN JOHNSON - FSD BUSINESS MANAGER SARAH BOURNE - LEGAL SERVICES
SUBJECT:	DRY RISER TESTING UPDATE

APPENDIX A	TITLE	EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT
APPENDIX B		DRY RISER TEST – CASE STUDY

Purpose of Report

1. To update the Authority on the delivery of the Dry Riser testing service on a cost recovery basis.

Recommendation

2. That the Authority note the contents of this report relating to the chargeable provision of Dry Riser testing by Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority (MFRA) on a cost recovery basis.

Introduction & Background

3. Dry risers are intended for the use by the Authority to provide a readily available means of delivering considerable quantities of water to extinguish or prevent the spread of fire in buildings that are:
 - a) Over 18 metres above ground level; or
 - b) Low level buildings where there are excessive distances from entrances (60m).

4. The Responsible Person (as defined in Regulation 3 of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005) is legally required to maintain all firefighting equipment, including Dry Risers in adherence to The British Standard Code of Practice BS9990:2006.
5. The British Standard Code of Practice BS9990:2006 requires buildings to have a full annual pressure test and a six monthly visual test, conducted by a competent person.
6. Dry riser testing is undertaken by Operational Crews who as part of a Site Specific Risk Information (SSRI) visit will, if requested, test the dry riser in respect of its operational effectiveness in line with 7.2.d of the Fire & Rescue Services Act 2004, the costs of which are recovered by the Authority.
7. Fire Service Direct (FSD) are managing and developing the initiative by contacting all premises in Merseyside with a dry riser main explaining the service offered by the Authority. FSD manage and co-ordinate the service internally and with the responsible persons.
8. There are numerous companies offering dry riser testing in Merseyside, however it is anticipated that the strong brand of the Authority and the guaranteed delivery of an excellent service will make our offer more attractive to the responsible persons.

Equality & Diversity Implications

9. The Equality and Impact Assessment is attached as Appendix A.

Staff Implications

10. Operational personnel are all competent and hold the pre-requisite core skills for pump, hose and branch operation. Familiarisation training via LearnPro in respect of High Rise and Dry Riser testing is delivered prior to the SSRI visit.
11. Dry riser testing is delivered as part of the Community Engagement period included in the station work routine.

Legal Implications

12. There is a potential conflict for Officers of the Authority carrying out dry riser testing because the Authority is also the inspecting and enforcing body for the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005.
13. Article 32(10) of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 states that where the commission of an offence is due to the act or omission of some other person then that person may be charged with and convicted of an offence. If the Authority carried out the testing inadequately there is the potential for a crime to be committed for which, if within the Merseyside area, the Authority would be responsible for prosecuting which highlights the conflict.

14. If the Authority negligently said that the equipment was working and the faulty equipment subsequently didn't work in a fire there is potential for litigation in case of damage or injury arising from negligent action. The authority's excess on its public liability insurance is £0.5 million and any successful claims up to this amount would have to be paid directly from the Authority's budget. There is also potential for damage to the reputation of the Authority.
15. The provision of dry riser testing is not considered as a Special Service and therefore a separate agreement has been drafted by the Authority's Legal Department.

Financial Implications & Value for Money

16. The Authority will charge £170 for the testing of dry riser mains, which is consistent with prices charged by private companies.
17. The pilot, using a cost recovery model, offers a quality service that contributes to firefighter safety and in addition, brings revenue back into the Authority.

Risk Management, Health & Safety, and Environmental Implications

18. The relevant Station Manager will be advised of any Dry Riser testing arrangements within their station areas and will use this opportunity as a training, assessment and community fire prevention opportunity for operational crews.
19. The SHQ Community Fire Prevention Watch Manager will be used to quality assure the operational delivery of this service.

Contribution to Our Mission – To Achieve:

“Safer Stronger Communities – Safe Effective Firefighters”

20. By reducing risk in buildings in Merseyside ensuring that firefighting equipment is suitably tested and maintained, making a positive difference to our firefighter's safety and provides an excellent and affordable service to our communities.
21. Appendix B (case Study) provides a real example of the positive contribution to firefighter and community safety that dry Riser testing by the Authority has.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

*Glossary of Terms

MFRA	-	Merseyside Fire & Rescue Authority
FSD	-	Fire Service Direct
SSRI	-	Site Specific Risk Information
SHQ	-	Service Headquarters

Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service
Equality Impact Assessment Form

Title of policy/report/project:	Cost Recovery Model - Dry Riser Testing Service
Department:	Community Prevention
Date:	13th March 2013
1: What is the aim or purpose of the policy/report/project	
<i>This should identify "the legitimate aim" of the policy/report/project (there may be more than one)</i>	
<p>The objective of this policy is for MFRS to introduce a service, on a cost recovery basis, to ensure the operational effectiveness of dry riser mains in line with 7.2.d of the Fire & Rescue Services Act 204. Ensuring the effectiveness of dry riser mains will contribute to our mission of 'Safer, Stronger Communities – Safe Effective Firefighters'.</p>	
2: Who will be affected by the policy/report/project?	
<i>This should identify the persons/organisations who may need to be consulted about the policy /report/project and its outcomes (There may be more than one)</i>	
<p>Dry riser mains will be measured by MFRS for operational effectiveness in high rise dwellings and commercial buildings. The policy will have no negative impact on the persons or organisations that the service is delivered to.</p>	
3. Monitoring	
<i>Summarise the findings of any monitoring data you have considered regarding this policy/report/project. This could include data which shows whether the it is having the desired outcomes and also its impact on members of different equality groups.</i>	
What monitoring data have you considered?	What did it show?
	MFRS have not delivered dry riser testing since approximately 2007 and therefore no relevant monitoring data is available.

<p>4: Research</p> <p><i>Summarise the findings of any research you have considered regarding this policy/report/project. This could include quantitative data and qualitative information; anything you have obtained from other sources e.g. CFOA/CLG guidance, other FRSs, etc</i></p>	
<p>What research have you considered?</p> <p>1. Liaise with other FRS</p> <p>2. Liaise with RSL's</p>	<p>What did it show?</p> <p>East Sussex FRS conducted 88 dry riser mains tests in line with their Special Services Fees and Charges.</p> <p>Knowsley Housing Trust have expressed a desire to work in partnership with MFRS to deliver this service.</p>
<p>5. Consultation</p> <p><i>Summarise the opinions of any consultation. Who was consulted and how? (This should include reference to people and organisations identified in section 2 above) Outline any plans to inform consultees of the results of the consultation</i></p>	
<p>What Consultation have you undertaken?</p> <p>Consulted with MFRS Legal Department, Community Fire Protection and Registered Social Landlords in Merseyside.</p>	<p>What did it say?</p> <p>The consultation identified that whilst these may be a potential conflict for MFRS, there is a benefit to MFRS in conducting the operational effectiveness of dry riser mains, either as an individual visit or as part of a SSRI.</p>

6. Conclusions

Taking into account the results of the monitoring, research and consultation, set out how the policy/report/project impacts or could impact on people from the following protected groups? (Include positive and/or negative impacts)

(a) Age

Depending upon the demographics of high rise dwellings, ensuring the operational effectiveness of dry riser mains could enhance the safety and chances of escape of younger and elderly people.

(b) Disability (including mental, physical and sensory conditions)

Ensuring the operational effectiveness of dry riser mains would enhance the firefighting capabilities of MFRS in an emergency, thus allowing and aiding the evacuation of individuals with a disability or mobility problems.

(c) Race (include: nationality, national or ethnic origin and/or colour)

An individual's race would have no impact upon the delivery of dry riser testing.

(d) Religion or Belief

An individual's religion or belief would have no impact upon dry riser testing.

(e) Sex (include gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership and pregnancy or maternity)

An individual's sex would have no impact upon dry riser testing.

(f) Sexual Orientation

An individual's sexual orientation would have no impact upon dry riser testing.

(g) Socio-economic disadvantage

The majority of high rise dwellings in Merseyside are owned by Registered Social Landlords and due to the amount of community members housed by these organisations, most social issues – including those that put individuals at risk of fire – are covered. Therefore ensuring the operational effectiveness of dry riser mains allows MFRS full firefighting capabilities in the event of an incident,

7. Decisions

If the policy/report/project will have a negative impact on members of one or more of the protected groups, explain how it will change or why it is to continue in the same way.

If no changes are proposed, the policy/report/project needs to be objectively justified as being an appropriate and necessary means of achieving the legitimate aim set out in 1 above.

The policy will have a positive impact on the safety of communities and business and commercial sectors within Merseyside. It will also contribute to firefighter safety when dealing with incidents in buildings that are:

- a) over 18m above ground; or
- b) low level where there are excessive distances from entrances (60m).

The legitimate aim of the policy will be to enhance safety whilst at no increased cost to MFRS.

8. Equality Improvement Plan

List any changes to our policies or procedures that need to be included in the Equality Action Plan/Service Plan.

9. Equality & Diversity Sign Off

The completed EIA form must be signed off by the Diversity Manager before it is submitted to Strategic Management Group or Authority.

Signed off by: Date:

Action Planned	Responsibility of	Completed by

For any advice, support or guidance about completing this form please contact the DiversityTeam@merseyfire.gov.uk or on 0151 296 4237

The completed form along with the related policy/report/project document should be emailed to the Diversity Team at: DiversityTeam@merseyfire.gov.uk

DRY RISER TESTING – CASE STUDY

Fire Service Direct (FSD) was contacted by the Business Manager at Hope Academy, Ashton Road, Newton-le-Willows, WA12 0AQ who requested our services to conduct the testing of three dry rising mains.

For information, Hope Academy is a £33m two year build programme, constructed by Wilmott Dixon which opened on 8th September 2011.

FSD arranged for Station 51 (Newton-le-Willows) to attend the Academy on 31st July 2013 to conduct the testing of the three dry rising mains. In attendance were WM George Jennings (OIC), WM Mark Jones (Community Fire Prevention Team) and Kevin Johnson (FSD Business Manager).

On initial inspection, it became immediately apparent that the dry rising mains all had female coupling (outlets) instead male coupling (inlet), which is what would have been expected. Due to this, the dry rising mains were unable to be tested.

As the test being conducted during the school holidays, the Business Manager was not on site and as such I sent him an email communication detailing the issues, copying Community Fire Protection St Helens and Group Manager Case.

The Business manager contacted FSD on 12th August 2013 and advised me that the Construction Company had attended the site and confirmed that all three dry risers did have the incorrect fittings and that this would be resolved immediately.

On 4th September Station 51 revisited the Academy to test the dry rising mains. In attendance were WM George Jennings (OIC), WM Mark Jones (Community Fire Prevention Team), Kevin Johnson (FSD Business Manager) and Paul Draper (Community Fire Protection Team, St Helens).

The tests were completed successfully and found to be operationally effective and working in accordance with 7(2)(d) of the Fire & Rescue Services Act (2004).

There are a number of areas here that raised concern, particularly in respect of:

1. How the original commissioning tests were completed and to what standard.
2. The potential for critical delays had the crews attended a fire call and the inability to feed water to the upper floors; and
3. Whether a private company would have reported the remedial action required to resolve the issue.

The following should be noted:

1. Station 51 personnel were professional, competent and enthusiastic in delivering the dry riser test;
2. The familiarisation of the building could prove invaluable in the event of a fire call to the premises;
3. Dry riser testing gives the Station Manager the potential to attend to observe the operational crews off site, conducting a service we have not delivered since circa 2005.

4. The issues raised above are being addressed by the Business Manager and MFRS.

FSD will be positively promoting the dry riser testing service throughout Merseyside w/c 23rd September 2013 and has already secured an agreement to deliver at 12 high rise sites on behalf of Knowsley Housing Trust and is awaiting a response from One Vision in Sefton.

Kevin Johnson
FSD Business Manager

AGENDA ITEM:

REPORT TO: Meeting of the	MERSEYSIDE FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY COMMUNITY SAFETY & PROTECTION COMMITTEE
DATE:	17TH OCTOBER 2013
REPORT NO.	CFO/120/13
REPORTING OFFICER:	DEPUTY CHIEF FIRE OFFICER
CONTACT OFFICER:	AM MYLES PLATT – DIRECTOR OF PREVENTION & PROTECTION, EXTN; 4644
OFFICERS CONSULTED:	CAROLINE CRICHTON - COMMUNITY FIRE PREVENTION MANAGER, WM IAN MULLEN - ARSON REDUCTION COORDINATOR
SUBJECT:	BONFIRE PLAN 2013

APPENDIX	A	TITLE	Equality Impact Assessment
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Purpose of Report

1. To request that the Authority note the recommendations of this report relating to Bonfire planning 2013.

Recommendation

2. That the Authority note and approve the plan for Bonfire period 2013

Executive Summary

The 2013 Bonfire plan aims to limit the number of deliberate fires and instances of anti-social behaviour across Merseyside throughout the Halloween and Bonfire period.

The Authority has in previous years delivered highly successful Bonfire campaigns to reduce the impact of the seasonal rise in incidents of fire and ASB related activities. For 2013 the planning has been devolved to each District Community Fire Prevention team.

Central co-ordination of partners, resources and control is facilitated by the Arson Reduction Coordinator to ensure local plans contribute and compliment a pan Merseyside multi-agency approach.

It is recognised that current financial challenges will impact on some of the services our partners have contributed in the past and we will therefore endeavour to ensure contingencies and alternative resources are put in place to address any areas of risk.

Introduction & Background

3. The Authority recognise that a significant increase in calls for service is received over the Halloween and Bonfire period which is directly linked to the sales of fireworks during this time. In order to limit the demand, calls for service and the number of ASB related incidents, plans have been formulated on a district and pan Merseyside level.
4. Bonfire 2013 has been divided into three phases,
 - a) Planning Phase
 - b) Implementation Phase
 - c) Post period data capture and debrief phase
5. **Planning Phase**- Planning has taken place with partner agencies since June 2013 at Service level and District level.
6. District monthly meetings have been held at Service Headquarters since June with the aim to ensure successful planning for the Halloween and Bonfire periods are being implemented.
7. Operation Banger - This is a Police led operation which co-ordinates Police and partner activity over the Halloween and Bonfire period. Monthly strategic meetings will take place with Merseyside Police at Police headquarters involving all Basic Command Unit Commanders and officers of the Authority.
8. School Presentations –To support service wide education and training, presentation packages have been jointly created and agreed by the Authority and Merseyside Police which are being presented to all Senior Schools and targeted Junior Schools across Merseyside. They are being delivered by MFRA Community Prevention staff, Merseyside Police, embedded School Police Officers and Operational Crews.
9. In order to ensure that all relevant information is available to staff the Portal on the Authorities intranet has been utilised as a central repository for all information appertaining to the Bonfire Period. A link box is available from the home page of the Portal to access all bonfire documentation.
10. Bonfire leaflets have been updated and will be distributed across the Service area. They provide safety advice on one face and on the rear it gives contact details for MFRA, Merseyside Police, Crime-stoppers and a single website link to diversionary

activities over the Halloween and Bonfire Period. This has been jointly funded by the Authority and Merseyside Police and a total of 50,000 leaflets have been produced and will be issued to all Districts across Merseyside.

11. Firework Retailer inspections will continue across Merseyside. Over 400 retailers apply for registrations or licences to sell fireworks each year. The on-going inspection programme has been undertaken by the Firework Incident Research Safety Team (FIRST). They have inspected all premises to ensure suitable and sufficient actions have been undertaken by the retailers to comply with safe storage and guidance given on the selling of fireworks.
12. Firework retailers can request specific advice regarding the storage, possession and sale of fireworks. This advice will be given by the FIRST team and Community Fire Protection Officers.
13. Street Intervention Teams have been working in key Liverpool areas on a daily basis to engage with the young people who may be present. The objective being to reduce and prevent Anti-Social Behaviour related incidents and promote safety issues in the run up to the Bonfire period.
14. **Implementation Phase** - Key Dates have been agreed with Merseyside Police so that Wed 30th October, Thursday 31st October, Sat 2nd November and Tue 5th November will have increased resources available to promote engagement and prevention activities. This will be co-ordinated through a dedicated operational support room.
15. Bonfire Briefings will be held at Service Headquarters on six dates over the Bonfire Period in order to monitor and review events. The briefings are open to internal departments and external partners involved with deliberate fire setting and Anti-Social Behaviour related issues. The briefings will take place every Monday and Friday at 11am from 18th October to 4th November 2013.
16. Districts have produced their own plans for local prevention and response to the Bonfire Period 2013. Each plan is tailored to local issues based on historical data from previous years and emerging issues. The dynamic plans will evolve based upon data received over the Bonfire period and captured during the Bonfire Briefings. Ownership of District plans falls with the District Management Team and are implemented by the District Prevention Managers.
17. The FIRST team consists of a Detective Constable from Merseyside Police, and a MFRA Technical Officer. In addition, the Incident Investigation Team (IIT) Officers are FIRST team response officers. IIT will respond to all firework incidents involving damage to property or injuries to persons.
18. During the permitted firework selling dates of 15th October and 10th November 2013 an onsite inspection plan will be carried out to verify that the fireworks are being stored and sold correctly. Any illegal firework sales will be dealt with by the FIRST team and appropriate action taken. This will range from the provision of advice to seizure, enforcement and prosecution.

19. Fire Service Direct will be the recipient of any reports of bonfire debris placed on the streets or storage of bonfire materials in void properties. This information will then be passed to the relevant District Arson Reduction Team for action as per the District plan.
20. The Operational Support Room (OSR) will be established on the key nights (30th, 31st Oct, 2nd Nov and 5th Nov) situated at MACC in the training room. This will be active from 4pm until midnight and staffed by the Prevention team.
21. The OSR will monitor and record the activity of all Prevention staff not riding fire appliances that are deployed across Merseyside, to include Community Prevention Advocates, Street Intervention Teams and Fire Support Network staff.
22. The OSR will also act as a link between Prevention staff and the Station Manager who will be located in Police Force Silver Command room. This facility compliments MACC operations, allowing MACC staff to concentrate on the increase in emergency calls for service via the 999 system.
23. Diversionary activity is being organised at a District level. This includes Local Authority firework displays, community event bonfires, cage soccer events, climbing wall activities, youth/community centre activity, and numerous smaller public events which are supported by Fire Support Network.
24. Radio City will be hosting a key distraction event on 30th October in order to attract listeners and keep them indoors at historical peak times of ASB activity. This is being part funded by Merseyside Police however it is not being promoted as being connected to any Emergency Service or uniformed organisation.
25. Corporate Communications have been meeting with Police partners to ensure that key messages are rolled out across the County over the period. A campaign of media press releases will promote the key messages at key times over the period.
26. Police Silver Liaison will be maintained on the key nights of 30th, 31st Oct and 5th Nov. Police will be establishing a Silver Command Room and a Station Manager will be present to act as MFRA Liaison. They will establish communications links with the OSR.
27. Trojan will be made available at SHQ should it be required to deploy. Deployment will be facilitated in co-operation with Merseyside Police on a dynamic intelligence led basis. Two Police Officers will ride the vehicle along with an MFRA OIC and driver. It will be deployed to known hotspot areas for a specific duration and will be further supported by a Police carrier with two staff.
28. Due to the historical increases in demand for response by the Incident Investigation Team (IIT), additional staffing has been provided on key dates who will be utilised for firework incidents (FIRST) or fire investigations.
29. Due to an increase in deliberate car fires over the Bonfire period in 2012 additional considerations will be given to areas of hotspot activity and working with crime prevention officers from Merseyside Police in order to reduce instances of vehicle crime.

30. A post Bonfire sweep will take place on the morning of Wednesday 6th November 2013. This will involve operational crews patrolling their station areas in order to extinguish smouldering bonfires in known fire locations. Appliances will remain available for redeployment by MACC. This will facilitate Local Authority cleansing teams to remove bonfire remains before the youths return home from school.
31. **Debrief Phase** - The final figures for the bonfire recording period of 19th October to 7th November inclusive will be published on the morning of 8th November 2013.
32. A full debrief has been arranged for 15th November 2013 to be held from 10am until 12.00pm at Service Headquarters. This is a multi-agency debrief that will report on the outcomes of the Bonfire activity and capture learning points for next year's event.
33. Local multi-agency debriefs will take place following the bonfire period in each District.

Equality & Diversity Implications

34. An equality impact assessment form has been completed and is attached as Appendix A.

Staff Implications

35. Staff will be required to support Trojan if required. This will be an OIC and a driver. In order to maintain the OSR the following staff will be required from 4pm until midnight on the four key nights. This will be the OSR manager (Watch Manager), a Control Operator and an admin support officer. Additional cover for the Incident Investigation Team has been agreed with the team members to ensure suitable cover is provided during the anticipated periods of peak activity.

Legal Implications

36. School presentations have been viewed by the Legal team to verify that the content is acceptable. Recommendations to include a warning screen and to show content to responsible persons for youth groups prior to presenting to schools have been implemented within the package
37. Training in respect of surveillance activity requirements under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000, is being provided for key staff prior to the bonfire period.

Financial Implications & Value for Money

38. All additional costs for delivering the bonfire plan will be met from existing budget and supported by external partners.

Risk Management, Health & Safety, and Environmental Implications

39. In considering the Risk Management Implications for staff in the field during key nights, a decision was made to operate the Operational Support Room. This will allow for a robust monitoring management of staff across Merseyside who are not riding fire appliances.

Contribution to Our Mission – To Achieve; Safer Stronger Communities – Safe Effective Firefighters”

40. The delivery of the Bonfire plan aims to limit the number of Anti-Social Behaviour incidents and deliberate fires across Merseyside and reduce the risk of attacks on firefighters through education and engagement.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

N/A

***Glossary of Terms**

DMT -	District Management Team
DPM -	District Prevention Managers
KIM -	Knowledge and Information Management
FIRST -	Firework Incident Research & Safety Team
IIT -	Incident Investigation Team
MACC -	Mobilising and Communications Centre
MFRA -	Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service
OSR -	Operational Support Room
SHQ -	Service Headquarters
MFRS -	Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service

Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service
Equality Impact Assessment Form

Title of policy/report/project:	Bonfire Period Campaign 2013
Department:	Community Prevention and Protection
Date:	24/07/2013
<p>1: What is the aim or purpose of the policy/report/project</p> <p><i>This should identify “the legitimate aim” of the policy/report/project (there may be more than one)</i></p>	
<p>In summary, the aims of the Bonfire Period campaign are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limit the demand on Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service during the Halloween and Bonfire period related to the sales of fireworks and increased Anti-Social Behaviour during the period. • Work with Merseyside Police and other partner agencies across Merseyside to provide diversionary or distraction activities. • Work with partner agencies to prevent incidents from occurring through bonfire removal, providing advice to local communities and businesses and provision of planned firework events. <p>Background and Introduction</p> <p>Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service recognise that a significant increase in calls to the Service is received over the Halloween and Bonfire period. This is directly linked to the sales of fireworks and increased anti-social behaviour over the period. In order to limit the demand, an extensive plan over the period has been formulated to reduce the calls for service, numbers of fires and instances of anti social behaviour which adversely affect the communities of Merseyside.</p> <p>Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service are working with a number of external partners across Merseyside to deliver numerous initiatives. These initiatives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safer Merseyside Bonfire Briefings, which will review the previous 72/96 hours of incident activity, and in doing so allow the notification of potential emerging hotspots to be located with briefings held each Monday and Friday from 15th Oct to 5th Nov 13. • Merseyside Informed and MF&RS Portal, which is utilised to share information 	

and intelligence with partner organisations;

- Bonfire clearance, which involves the removal of combustible material that could be used for bonfires.
- A bonfire damping down activity (sweep) will take place on 6th November, as historically MF&RS calls for service to bonfire incidents continues the day after bonfire night;
- Void Properties, which involves inspecting and securing empty properties to reduce the risk of arson;
- Arson Incident Risk Assessments, which involves the provision of interventions to properties that have been targeted during the bonfire period;
- Community Engagement and Education, which involves the circulation of leaflets and fire safety advice, provision of skips, delivery of presentations and distraction initiatives to prevent arson and anti-social behaviour incidents;
- Media activities, which involves working with local press and radio to spread the fire safety message and information about planned activities;
- Firework legislation, which involves the Legislative Fire Safety teams enforcing MSER 2005 (the Manufacture and Storage of Explosives Regulations) and receiving and processing applications for the storage and supply of HT3 & HT4 explosives (consumer fireworks).
- Trojan fire appliance, which can be deployed to hotspots of fire related anti-social behaviour and criminal activity;
- The Operational Support Room (OSR) will be operated on key dates during the bonfire period. It will be staffed with a MACC operator, Watch Manager Operations Manager, Admin Support and a Senior Officer;
- A senior officer is deployed to Police Silver command on designated key nights in order to act as MF&RS liaison and update Police on MF&RS issues concerning ASB, Arson and accidental fire related incidents.
- Operational work, which involves operational crews providing a high visibility presence, with specific emphasis on areas that are known to be hotspot locations.

More information about this can be found in the Community Prevention pages on the Portal. <http://intranetportal/sites/trg/Bonfire%202013/Forms/AllItems.aspx>

2: Who will be affected by the policy/report/project?

This should identify the persons/organisations who may need to be consulted about

the policy /report/project and its outcomes (There may be more than one)

This Bonfire Campaign is concerned with making local communities and businesses safer during the Halloween and Bonfire period. The implementation of this campaign will impact on a number of groups. These groups include those who are likely to be involved in Anti-Social Behaviour incidents during the Bonfire period. Typically, these are likely to be young males, aged between 10 and 19 living in socio-economically deprived localities.

In addition to this, the campaign will also impact on those groups who are most likely to be affected by the anti-social behaviour incidents. This may include:

- Others living within the localities of the incidents;
- Those with an increased perception of fear during this period, for example the elderly;
- Those who may become a victim of hate crime related to their disability, sexual orientation, race, religious beliefs/faith or gender identity.

In addition, the Bonfire Campaign will also affect partner organisations that MF&RS work with during the period.

3. Monitoring

Summarise the findings of any monitoring data you have considered regarding this policy/report/project. This could include data which shows whether it is having the desired outcomes and also its impact on members of different equality groups.

What monitoring data have you considered?

Trend analysis of historic Bonfire period incidents

What did it show?

An analysis of historical bonfire data was completed to gain an understanding of whether there were any trends in the incidents that occurred. The Business Intelligence team within Strategic Planning provided 5 years of historic data from 2008 until 2012. The data provided the following findings:

- There has been a significant decrease in the number of deliberate secondary fires occurring during the bonfire period. Between the period of 2008 - 2012, there has been an overall reduction of incidents by approximately 58%.
- An analysis of deliberate secondary fires by district shows that the greatest number of incidents were within the Liverpool district, followed by the Wirral district, Knowsley district, Sefton district and St

<p>Analysis of historic Bonfire period incidents with areas of socio-economic deprivation</p>	<p>Helens district respectively;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There has been a reduction in the number of incidents related to fireworks by approximately 20% between 200 and 2012. <p>The bonfire campaign has been running for approximately 10 years, with the bonfire briefings and partnership working increasing in scale since 2006. The reducing number of incidents is likely to be associated with the increased levels of partnership working and communication of information and intelligence.</p> <p>An analysis of historic bonfire incidents was completed to understand the link between the deliberate secondary fires occurring within this period and areas of socio-economic deprivation. The analysis of deliberate secondary fires during previous bonfire periods indicated that the more deprived areas of Merseyside saw a greater proportion of incidents than more affluent areas.</p> <p>During the 2012 bonfire period, 25% of all deliberate secondary fires occurred in the top 10% of the most deprived areas within Merseyside. In addition to this, almost 50% of incidents occurred within the top 20% of the most deprived areas. This compares with only 1% of incidents occurring in the 10% least deprived areas within Merseyside.</p>
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4: Research

Summarise the findings of any research you have considered regarding this policy/report/project. This could include quantitative data and qualitative information; anything you have obtained from other sources e.g. CFOA/CLG guidance, other FRSs, etc

What research have you considered?	What did it show?
<p>Previous Bonfire campaign reports and analysis</p>	<p>The bonfire campaign has been ongoing at MFRS for over 10 years, with the bonfire briefings and partnership working increasing in scale since 2006. As a result of this, the 2012 bonfire period witnessed 427 incidents, making it the quietest bonfire period in the past 6 years. The majority of incident types witnessed reductions when comparing 2011 with the 2012 bonfire periods. These were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “04 01 Derelict Building” with an increase of 1 from 7 to 8 incidents; • “04 02 Grassland” with a reduction of 13 from 37 to 24; • “04 03 Intentional Burning/Bonfire” with a reduction of 77 from 181 to 104 incidents; • “04 04 Outdoor Structure” with a reduction of 2 from 22 to 22; • “04 05 Refuse Fire” with a reduction of 83 incidents from 371 to 288. <p>The large reductions within “04 03 Intentional Burning/Bonfire” and “04 05 Refuse Fire” incidents types largely contributed to the overall reduction of 188 deliberate secondary fires. A trend analysis illustrated that the pattern of incidents between 2008 and 2012 was very similar, with a peak on the 5th of November.</p> <p>A significant reduction was made compared to previous year on the 6th November due to the implementation of the Service wide sweep to extinguish smouldering fires. This resulted in a drop of 75 incidents from 104 in 2011 to 29 in 2012.</p> <p>The majority of deliberate secondary fires between 2008 and 2012 occurred in the late afternoon to late evening hours, between 16:00hrs and 22:59hrs. It is also important to point out that between 02:00hrs and 10:59hrs there is a consistent lack of deliberate secondary fires, with incident numbers after this time increasing exponentially.</p> <p>The cost of 427 deliberate secondary fires attended during the 2012 bonfire period was £886,251.31 when compared to 2011 which cost overall a figure of</p>

	<p>£1,280,368.50.</p> <p>The research compiled from the previous bonfire periods indicate that the implementation of the strategy could have positive impacts financially, environmentally and also socially to the communities of Merseyside.</p>
<p>5. Consultation</p> <p><i>Summarise the opinions of any consultation. Who was consulted and how? (This should include reference to people and organisations identified in section 2 above)</i></p> <p><i>Outline any plans to inform consultees of the results of the consultation</i></p>	
<p>What Consultation have you undertaken?</p> <p>Bonfire 2012 Debrief</p> <p>Meetings with MFRS colleagues from the 5 Merseyside Districts</p> <p>Planning meetings with partner organisations</p>	<p>What did it say?</p> <p>This identified that a significant number of persons who were from ethnic minority backgrounds were specifically targeted through firework incidents. The data showed that 9 separate incidents occurred whereby deliberate damage to property occurred through misuse of fireworks in the run up period to bonfire night.</p> <p>Meetings with MFRS colleagues based in each district will be held monthly commencing in June 2013. As a result of this, each district will develop their own district plans for this bonfire campaign. These plans outline the partner organisations MFRS will be working with on each district to address particular issues that may be experienced during the bonfire period.</p> <p>A number of meetings will be held with partner organisation with regards to the bonfire campaign. As a result of this, a number of initiatives are to be agreed to ensure the safety of Merseyside residents during this period.</p> <p>These initiatives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circulation of bonfire leaflets with contact details for MFRS, Merseyside Police and Crimestoppers and a link to all activities that are being offered during the Halloween and Bonfire period;

<p>Operation Banger</p> <p>Firework Retailers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire Service Direct will be the recipient of any reports of bonfire debris and void properties. This information will be passed to the District Arson Reduction Team for action; • Diversionary activities have been organised at a district level, which include organised firework displays, community bonfires, cage soccer events, climbing wall activities, and numerous smaller public events supported by the Fire Support Network; • Radio City to be utilised as a media outlet to promote diversionary events over the bonfire period. <p>All of the initiatives agreed between partner organisations at these meetings will help ensure the communities of Merseyside are safe, and reduce the number of anti-social behaviour and arson incidents</p> <p>‘Operation Banger’ is an operation led by Merseyside Police which coordinates Police activity during the Halloween and Bonfire period. The planning phase for Operation Banger has included monthly strategic meetings to agree the strategy that will be used to target those who may be involved in anti-social behaviour and Arson activities and ensure the communities are safe. Meeting commenced in June 2013. MF&RS Prevention attend all Banger strategic meetings.</p> <p>Firework retailers are offered specific advice concerning the rules and regulations for storage and sales of fireworks. They can request specific visits and a member of the firework incident research and safety team will contact in order to pass advice as required and specific to their requirements.</p>
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6. Conclusions

Taking into account the results of the monitoring, research and consultation, set out how the policy/report/project impacts or could impact on people from the following protected groups? (Include positive and/or negative impacts)

(a) Age

It is known that the individuals who are involved in anti-social behaviour and deliberate fire setting during the Bonfire period are typically young males aged between 10 and 19. These individuals may view the implementation of the Bonfire

campaign negatively. A separate Equality Impact Assessment on our “Trojan Fire Engine” contains more detail in relation to this. However, overall, the campaign will have a positive impact on individuals within this age group as it provides interventions to ensure their safety and diversionary activities, such as organised firework displays and bonfires, cage soccer, a climbing wall and youth activities.

In addition, the delivery of the campaign will have a positive impact on those who may be more vulnerable, for example the elderly. These groups may have an increased perception of fear during this period, therefore the delivery of appropriate fire safety messages and diversionary activities to reduce incidents may increase their perception of feeling safe.

The bonfire advice leaflet has been changed to invite the reader to consider the needs and welfare of elderly people over the bonfire period.

Education is recognised as a key method in preventing and reducing instances of arson. Two presentations appropriate for school use have been produced for 7-11 year olds and 11-16 year olds. They have also been made available with an off white (light yellow) background to assist viewing for those with dyslexia.

(b) Disability including mental, physical and sensory conditions)

Currently, MFRS do not target initiatives towards individuals with disabilities during the bonfire period. However, as this group is potentially more vulnerable, they may feel safer due to the delivery of the fire safety messages and diversionary activities to reduce arson and anti-social behaviour incidents.

Merseyside Police do implement plans for vulnerable victims and MF&RS arson reduction teams work with District Police units to offer support and assistance to make vulnerable persons more resistant to attacks of arson through target hardening initiatives.

The bonfire advice leaflet has been changed to request that the advice given in the leaflet is passed onto neighbours, especially elderly or vulnerable people.

School presentations have also been made available with an off white (light yellow) background to assist viewing for those with dyslexia.

(c) Race (include: nationality, national or ethnic origin and/or colour)

Currently, MFRS do not target initiatives relative to race during the bonfire period.

However, as individuals within this group could potentially be the victims of hate crime incidents, they may feel safer due to the delivery of the fire safety messages and diversionary activities to reduce arson and anti-social behaviour incidents. Hate crime awareness has been included in the school bonfire safety presentations.

(d) Religion or Belief

Currently, MFRS do not target initiatives relative to religion or belief during the bonfire period. However, as individuals within this group could potentially be the victims of hate crime incidents, they may feel an safer due to the delivery of the fire safety messages and diversionary activities to reduce arson and anti-social behaviour incidents.

(e) Sex (include gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership and pregnancy or maternity)

It is known that the individuals who are involved in anti-social behaviour and deliberate fire setting during the bonfire period are typically young males. These individuals may view the implementation of the bonfire campaign negatively. However, overall, the campaign will have a positive impact on individuals within this age group as it provides interventions to ensure their safety and diversionary activities, such as organised firework displays and bonfires, cage soccer, a climbing wall and youth activities.

School presentations have been developed and will be rolled out across Merseyside to Senior/High schools and targeted junior schools in order to promote the key messages over the Bonfire Period.

(f) Sexual Orientation

Currently, MFRS do not target initiatives relative to sexual orientation during the bonfire period. However, as individuals within this group could potentially be the victims of hate crime incidents, they may feel an safer due to the delivery of the fire safety messages and diversionary activities to reduce arson and anti-social behaviour incidents.

(g) Socio-economic disadvantage

It is anticipated that residents living within areas of socio-economic disadvantage will experience a positive impact through the implementation of the bonfire campaign. An analysis of incidents occurring during previous bonfire periods indicates that deliberate secondary fires and anti-social behaviour incidents are more likely to occur in more deprived areas.

MFRS will work closely with partners again during the 2013 bonfire campaign, ensuring that appropriate preventative measures are in place and resources placed in hot-spot localities. These activities will have a positive impact on the local communities as they have the potential to prevent incidents from occurring or reducing the impact of incidents that do occur. School presentations are being rolled out across Merseyside to Senior/High/Junior schools in order to promote the key messages of the Bonfire Period. School Presentations are being given by Police and Fire Service embedded officers and Advocates.

7. Decisions

If the policy/report/project will have a negative impact on members of one or more of

the protected groups, explain how it will change or why it is to continue in the same way.

If no changes are proposed, the policy/report/project needs to be objectively justified as being an appropriate and necessary means of achieving the legitimate aim set out in 1 above.

It is recognised that MFRS and its partner organisations are currently facing financial challenges; however the implementation of the 2013 Bonfire Campaign has the potential to reduce the number of incidents related to anti-social behaviour.

The bonfire campaign has a strong focus on preventative initiatives, such as bonfire clearing, school presentations and diversionary activities, which not only prevent incidents from occurring, but also increase the perception of safety amongst residents.

It is anticipated that a number of protected groups will experience a positive impact through the implementation of the bonfire campaign. In particular, those groups who are most likely to be involved in anti-social behaviour and arson initiatives will be provided access to other diversionary initiatives. These groups are typically young males living in socio-economically deprived locations.

The implementation of the bonfire campaign activities will also have a positive impact on residents living close to hotspot localities for anti-social behaviour and arson initiatives. In addition to this, those protected groups who may be at risk from hate crime may also feel safer because of the regulation of firework sales, clearance of combustible materials and provision of diversionary activities for those likely to be involved in anti-social behaviour incidents.

8. Equality Improvement Plan

List any changes to our policies or procedures that need to be included in the Equality Action Plan/Service Plan.

Long term plans for 2014 can consider the following:

- Specific safety messages for people with disability. In order to obtain this information, meet with key partners and invite feedback from them.
- Consider how to record incidents to capture if specific strands or characteristics were a factor in the incident occurring. ie targeted firework incident due to a person characteristic of the individual.
- Community events and bonfires to evidence and record methods of ways of considering access to all abilities and those with sensory conditions.
- Bonfire debrief for 2013 to consider E&D issues and capture both good practice and ways of improvement.

- Record firework incidents whereby the investigating officer or the person concerned perceived the attack to be specially targeted due to a prejudice against them.

9. Equality & Diversity Sign Off

The completed EIA form must be signed off by the Diversity Manager before it is submitted to Strategic Management Group or Authority.

Signed off by: **Date:**

Action Planned	Responsibility of	Completed by
See actions contained in section 8 above	Ian Mullen and Wendy Kenyon	Next Bonfire Planning round 2014

For any advice, support or guidance about completing this form please contact the Wendy Kenyon on 4422

The completed form along with the related policy/report/project document should be emailed to the Diversity Team at: DiversityTeam@merseyfire.gov.uk

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