

MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY			
MEETING OF THE:	POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE		
DATE:	19TH DECEMBER 2019	REPORT NUMBER	CFO/063/19
PRESENTING OFFICER	CHIEF FIRE OFFICER		
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	ACFO MOTTRAM	REPORT AUTHOR:	SM LAUREN WOODWARD
OFFICERS CONSULTED:	AM GUY KEEN COMMUNITY SAFETY COORDINATOR MIKE BURATTI		
TITLE OF REPORT:	POST BONFIRE STRATEGY 2019		

APPENDICES:	APPENDIX A:	BONFIRE PRESENTATION
	APPENDIX B:	BONFIRE SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of Report

1. To inform Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority (MFRA) of the outcomes of the 2019 Bonfire period.

Recommendation

2. That members note the reduction and organisational gains outlined in the presentation

Introduction and Background

3. The Bonfire period (2019) ran from 19/10/2019 to 7/11/2019 however members should be aware that the planning process commenced in June with regular meetings being convened with partner agencies throughout the year.
4. Appendix A and B as well as Tables 1 and 2 below indicate a 33.61% reduction over the same period when compared to 2018.
5. A significant contribution was made from a number of members of MFRA staff, from a range of departments.
6. Table 1 outlines the reduction for each district whilst Table 2 shows the violence at work incidents that MFRA crews faced. There is a reduction compared to 2018 and no serious injuries or significant damage was experienced. Violence at work attacks will always be one of the priorities to reduce in order to protect our staff and the communities of Merseyside.
7. Table 3 displays the Firework related incidents experienced during 2019 Bonfire. A significant increase with a serious concern for the type of incident occurring. Whilst the attacks on properties was significantly fewer than previous years, the

number of injuries sustained by members of the public saw a rise. A large percentage of these were due to members of the public tampering with the firework and suffering from a serious discharge of the explosive unexpectedly. We have and will continue to work closely with colleagues from Merseyside Police and our Corporate Communications team to share safety messages and strive to prevent these types of incidents.

8. The pan Merseyside data. Appendix A contains slides which outline the evaluation of the significant decreases and increase in St Helens.

Table 1

Deliberate Secondary Fires			
District	2018	2019	Difference
Wirral	63	30	-52.38%
Liverpool	162	116	-28.40%
<i>Liverpool North</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>77</i>	<i>-23.00%</i>
<i>Liverpool South</i>	<i>62</i>	<i>39</i>	<i>-37.10%</i>
Sefton	56	19	-66.07%
Knowsley	56	43	-23.21%
St Helens	29	35	20.69%
Merseyside Total	366	243	-33.61%

Table 2

Violence at Work Incidents			
District	2018	2019	Difference
Wirral	1	1	0%
Liverpool	3	3	0%
<i>Liverpool North</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>50%</i>
<i>Liverpool South</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>-100%</i>
Sefton	0	0	0%
Knowsley	5	3	-40%
St Helens	0	0	0%
Merseyside Total	9	7	22.2%

Table 3

Firework Incidents			
District	2018	2019	Difference
Wirral	1	5	400%
Liverpool	5	5	0%
<i>Liverpool North</i>	4	3	-25%
<i>Liverpool South</i>	1	2	100%
Sefton	1	3	200%
Knowsley	2	2	0%
St Helens	0	1	100%
Merseyside Total	9	16	77.8%

Equality and Diversity Implications

9. EIA was completed and available on the E&D page of the portal

Staff Implications

10. Arson Officers worked into the evening on the 7 key nights supported by Home Safety Advocates and Youth Engagement Staff. There was 1 Arson Officer in each district per night plus 1 Advocate from Home Safety or Youth Engagement making up teams of 2. MFRA staff supported the Trojan Fire Appliance which ran on 1st and 2nd November 2019. This consisted of 2 Station Managers per evening (Driver and OIC).
11. The Liverpool, Knowsley and Sefton Street Intervention Teams worked additional evenings in high demand areas.
12. The OSR was staffed from 4pm until midnight on the 7 key nights by the Arson Team Community Safety Coordinator and a designated Station Manager.
13. Additional cover for the Incident Investigation Team was implemented with the team members to ensure suitable cover was provided during the anticipated periods of peak activity. An additional IIT officer was available at times of high demand on the key nights.

Legal Implications

14. School presentations have previously been viewed by the Legal team to verify that the content is acceptable. Recommendations to include a warning and to show content to responsible persons for youth groups prior to presenting to schools have been implemented within the package.

15. Regulatory Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) training has previously been given to key staff prior to the bonfire period. A RIPA was completed and submitted to the legal team in respect of the Trojan Fire Appliance.
16. All Arson Officers staff are trained in Safeguarding and reporting processes are established.
17. All staff during the tipper tucks have received a driver validation by the Driving School and all staff on the tipper trucks are manual handling trained.
18. Community Protection Officers will be available to visit retailers storing fireworks for sale to ensure compliance with legislation.

Financial Implications & Value for Money

19. All additional costs for delivering the bonfire plan were met from existing budget and supported by external partners.
20. A bid for £3500 of funding has been submitted to Liverpool City Safe Board and was successful to fund Facebook and Twitter advertising, a tipper truck and some staff costs.

Risk Management, Health & Safety, and Environmental Implications

21. In considering the risk management implications for staff operating within Merseyside during key nights, a decision was made to operate the Operational Support Room. This allowed for a robust monitoring and management of staff across Merseyside who are not riding fire appliances
22. In order to reduce risk of attacks to Firefighters and Fire Appliances, the Trojan fire appliance was ready from 15th October and was available to be dynamically deployed if required to hotspot areas of attacks against crews or appliances. This was supported by Merseyside Police.
23. In order to reduce the impact of fly tipping, firecalls and smoke on the environment tipper trucks operated pre bonfire to remove hazardous waste or combustible materials.
24. A post Bonfire night sweep took place on the morning of Wednesday 6th November. This involved fire crews patrolling their station areas in order to extinguish smouldering bonfires in known fire locations. Appliances remained available for redirection by Fire Control. This enabled tipper trucks to remove remain debris from bonfires.
During the sweep, 101 bonfires were attended and assessed by Fire Crews.

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

25. The delivery of the Bonfire plan aims to limit and reduce the threat of the number of Anti-Social Behaviour incidents and deliberate fires across Merseyside.

26. It also promotes key safety messages to allow the public to have a safe Halloween and bonfire period free from harm and injury.
27. Its aim is to reduce the risk of attacks on firefighters through education and engagement.
28. The plan will prepare for the anticipated increase in calls for service by working with partners and key stakeholders; prevent crime and fires which will impact on MFRA response to incidents; protect the most vulnerable who may be victims of fire or firework incidents plus educating young persons; and pursue those who attack firefighters or staff of MFRA.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

DPM -	District Prevention Managers
FIRST -	Firework Incident Research & Safety Team
IIT -	Incident Investigation Team
JCC -	Joint Control Centre (Bridle Road)
MFRA -	Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority
MFRA -	Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service
OIC -	Officer in Charge
OSR -	Operational Support Room
RIPA -	Regulatory Investigative Powers Act
S&P -	Strategy and Performance
SHQ -	Service Headquarters
SPOC -	Single Point of Contact