

REPORT TO: Safer Policy and Performance Board
DATE: 17th September 2013
REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director - Communities
PORTFOLIO: Community Safety
SUBJECT: Bonfire Removal Initiative
WARD(S): Borough-wide

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To receive a verbal update on the planning and proposed operation of the 2013 Bonfire Removal Initiative.

2. RECOMMENDATION: That:

2.1 The Policy & Performance Board receive and comment upon the verbal update.

3. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Each year, the Safer Halton Partnership delivers a 'Bonfire Removal Initiative' which sets out to improve community safety by removing unauthorised and uncontrolled bonfires before they are ignited. The Initiative, which has been successfully operating in Halton since 1999, covers 'Mischief Night' and not only results in the physical removal of unauthorised bonfire material and debris, but also includes preventative measures being put into place in known 'hot spot' areas and education and community safety messages being delivered across the borough.

3.2 Members will receive a verbal update on the success of the 2012 Initiative as well as information on the planning and proposed operation of the 2013 Initiative.

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no policy implications associated with this report.

5. OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Financial and resources implications will be included in the verbal report presented to Members at the Board meeting.

6. IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

No direct impact

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

No direct impact

6.3 A Healthy Halton

Reducing the risk of nuisance, crime and harm potentially associated with unauthorised bonfires shall have an overall beneficial affect on wellbeing.

6.4 A Safer Halton

The Bonfire Removal Initiative contributes towards the Council's strategy for improving environmental standards and reducing environmental crime. This will have a positive impact upon the Safer Halton Priority, and also contribute towards the 'Cleaner, Greener, Safer' agenda.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

Green public spaces in hotpot areas will be protected by temporary fencing and Smiths SD, HBC Environmental Protection and Fire will be working together to ensure they are visible and more importantly public open spaces are kept safe and clean from debris and fires.

7. RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 All Partnership organisations have been involved in the planning process. All organisations are responsible for their risk assessments and briefings. The Community safety Team and Police will carry out joint briefings which include full risk assessments.

8. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 There are no equality or diversity issues as a result of this report.

9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

9.1 There are no background papers within the meaning of the Act.