

REPORT TO: Safer Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 16 September 2014

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director - Communities

PORTFOLIO: Community Safety

SUBJECT: Mischief Night

WARD(S): Borough-wide

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To receive a verbal update on the planning and proposed operation of initiatives being delivered to reduce incidents of anti-social behaviour and unauthorised fires on mischief night and in the period up to bonfire night.

2. RECOMMENDATION: That the Policy & Performance Board receive and comment upon the verbal update.

3. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 Each year, the Safer Halton Partnership delivers a number of activities to reduce incidents of unauthorised bonfires and other forms of anti-social behaviour during the period covering 'Mischief Night' and 'Bonfire Night'. This includes preventative measures, diversionary activity and the 'Bonfire Removal Initiative' which sets out to improve community safety by removing unauthorised and uncontrolled bonfires before they are ignited, and which has been successfully operating in Halton since 1999. As part of the Partnership's efforts to reduce environmental nuisance and anti-social behaviour during this period, education and community safety messages are delivered across the borough, and information is directly delivered to households in known 'hot spot' areas.
- 3.2 Members will receive a verbal update on the success of initiatives in 2013 as well as information on the planning of activities for 2014.

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 anti-social behaviour and unauthorised bonfires shall have an overall beneficial effect on wellbeing.

6.4 A Safer Halton

The Bonfire Removal Initiative and other preventative measures contribute towards the Council's strategy for improving environmental standards and reducing environmental crime. This will help improve public safety and have a positive impact upon the Safer Halton Priority.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

The Bonfire Removal Initiative and other preventative measures will contribute towards the 'Cleaner, Greener, Safer' agenda and help to protect public open spaces, keeping them safe and clear of debris and fires.

7. RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 If initiatives were not put in place the risks of harm to the public and damage to the local environment would be significantly increased.

7.2 All Partner 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.