

CHESHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY

MEETING OF: PERFORMANCE AND OVERVIEW COMMITTEE
DATE: 1ST MARCH 2023
REPORT OF: HEAD OF PREVENTION AND PROTECTION
AUTHOR: RYAN SWINDELLS

SUBJECT: ANNUAL BONFIRE REPORT 2022

Purpose of Report

1. The annual Bonfire Report 2022 summarises the preventative and operational activities carried out by the Service and partners during the bonfire period, 24th October 2022 to 7th November 2022, inclusive (the Bonfire Period).

Recommended: That Members

- [1] note the Bonfire Report 2022, and in particular the recommendations contained in the document at section 12.

Background

2. The Service, local authorities, Cheshire Police and other partners are committed to reducing incidents of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) which affect the communities we serve. The deliberate fire-setting which constitutes a large part of the ASB during the Bonfire Period has a significant effect on the services Small Deliberate Fire figures. It can lead to injury and harm to people and can also have a significant financial impact on the local community and cause significant damage to the environment and amenities.

Information

3. The Bonfire Report 2022 is attached to this report as Appendix 1.
4. The Service attended 56 Small Deliberate Fires during the Bonfire Period, in comparison to 55 Small Deliberate Fires during the 2021 bonfire period. During the 2020 bonfire period the Service attended 41 Small Deliberate Fires (Covid 19 restriction were in place).
5. The Service has seen a slight increase in 2022 compared to 2021, but the number of incidents is still lower than in 2019 (pre Covid-19 and therefore more comparable).

Financial Implications

6. The recommendations in the Bonfire Report include areas with financial implications for future years. These are believed to be cost-effective options based on the use of additional appliances, and efficient deployment of staff and resources that will be considered for 2023.

Legal Implications

7. The bonfire initiatives are seen as a core function of the Service and there are no known legal implications in carrying out this work.

Equality and Diversity Implications

8. The bonfire initiatives are seen as a core function of the Service and there are no known Equality and Diversity implications in carrying out this work.

Environmental Implications

9. It should be recognised that the activities conducted during the Bonfire Period provide a positive contribution to reducing pollution and reducing carbon emissions from deliberate fires. The preventative work also supports a reduction in the number of movements of fire engines which also reduces vehicle emissions.

**CONTACT: KIRSTY JENNINGS, GOVERNANCE OFFICER
TEL [01606] 868841**

BACKGROUND PAPERS: BONFIRE REPORT 2022.