

**Safer and Stronger Communities  
Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**4 January 2021**

**Bonfire Period Activity**



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**Report of John Hewitt, Corporate Director of Resources**

**Electoral division(s) affected:**

Countywide

**Purpose of the Report**

- 1 To provide the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee with background information in advance of a presentation from County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service on service demand during the bonfire period.

**Executive summary**

- 2 The presentation attached in appendix 2 will aim to provide Members with information and activity for County Durham & Darlington Fire and Rescue Service for the bonfire period between 25 October to 7 November 2020.

**Recommendation**

- 3 Members of the Committee are asked to note information contained within this report and presentation and comment accordingly.

## Background

- 4 The bonfire period can be a challenging time for fire and rescue services and partner agencies including the council and police with associated fires and anti-social behaviour.
- 5 The presentation attached in Appendix 2 provides detail on service demand for County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service for the period of 25<sup>th</sup> October to 7 November 2020. In summary, the presentation reports that in comparison to 2019 there was an increase in calls received, incidents attended and deliberate secondary fires. In addition, the presentation also provides information on hotspot areas, false alarms, incidents of violence towards fire crews in undertaking their duties and levels of arson within the county.
- 6 The presentation will be delivered by Stuart Errington, Chief Fire Officer, County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service. Information within this presentation is linked to both Safe Durham Partnership plan priority “Promote being safe and feeling safe in your community” and previous work undertaken by the committee on arson and secondary fires.

## Main implications

### *Crime and Disorder*

- 7 Information with this report aims to contribute to the Safe Durham Partnership Plan priority to promote being safe and feeling safe in your community.

## Conclusion

- 8 The attached presentation provides information on increased activity for County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service for 2020 bonfire period and an opportunity for Members to provide comment to the service and Safe Durham Partnership Board.
- 9 Background papers
  - None

## Other useful documents

- Arson and deliberate secondary fires in East Durham– Safer and Stronger Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee, June 2019
- Arson and deliberate secondary fires in East Durham – Safer and Stronger Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee, July 2018

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## **Appendix 1: Implications**

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### **Legal Implications**

None.

### **Finance**

None.

### **Consultation**

None.

### **Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty**

None.

### **Human Rights**

None.

### **Climate Change**

None.

### **Crime and Disorder**

Information with this report aims to contribute to objectives within the existing Safe Durham Partnership plan to reducing crime and disorder.

### **Staffing**

None.

### **Accommodation**

None.

### **Risk**

None.

### **Procurement**

None.