

Tackling the Anti-Social Use of Fireworks: Inquiry Response

Date: 21 October 2021

Report of: Head of Democratic Services

Report to: Environment, Housing and Communities Scrutiny Board

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

What is this report about?

Including how it contributes to the city's and council's ambitions

- In 2020/21 the Scrutiny Board (Environment, Housing and Communities) carried out an inquiry into tackling the anti-social use of fireworks in Leeds. The inquiry concluded in March 2021.
- Having heard evidence from various stakeholders, members of the Board determined that it was appropriate to set out their conclusions in a report, which would subsequently be brought to the attention of the Executive Board.
- In line with the [Scrutiny Board Procedure Rules](#) the report (attached at appendix 1) sets out:
 - An explanation of the matter reviewed or scrutinised
 - A list of participants involved in the review
 - A summary of the evidence that the Scrutiny Board has taken
 - An explanation of any recommendations
- The draft inquiry report was considered by Board members at the first meeting of the new municipal year in June 2021. However, due to Covid-19 health and safety advice that meeting was held as a remote consultative session. Agreement to the recommendations set out in the report was therefore provided by the Board in principle, subject to final agreement at a formally constituted session (from May 2021 legislation reverted to a pre-pandemic position with meetings required to be held physically in order to be formally constituted).
- In order to finalise the report, the response of the relevant senior officer(s) is also required to be reported to the Board at a formally constituted meeting of the Board.
- The advice of senior officers in response to the Board's recommendations is reflected in the table at Appendix 2 for consideration by the Board.
- Having received this advice members are asked to consider whether they wish to amend any of the recommendations in the report.

- Members are asked to agree whether they wish to share the final report and the associated advice with the Executive Board. If members are agreeable to doing so the Executive Board will be asked, in line with the [Scrutiny Board Procedure Rules](#), to respond to the Scrutiny Board indicating what action (if any) it proposes to take.
- Members are asked to note that at the next meeting of the Scrutiny Board (be that a consultative or formally constituted meeting) an update will be provided about the 2021 experience of the peak period for anti-social use of fireworks following Bonfire Night, Mischief Night and Halloween.

Recommendations

- a) The Board is asked to consider the response of senior officers to the recommendations set out in the attached inquiry report.
- b) The Board is asked to agree any amendments to the original recommendations in light of the officer advice provided.
- c) Members are asked to confirm whether they are happy to formally share the final version of the report and the associated advice with the Executive Board.

Why is the proposal being put forward?

- 1 The Scrutiny Board Procedure Rules require the advice of senior officers to be reported to the Scrutiny Board in response to recommendations set out in an inquiry report.
- 2 This must be carried out in a formally constituted meeting – as of May 2021 there is a requirement for such meetings to take place physically.

What impact will this proposal have?

Wards affected:

Have ward members been consulted? Yes No

- 3 The Board is asked to consider the advice of senior officers in response to the recommendations set out in its Tackling Anti-Social Use of Fireworks Inquiry Report with a view to referring a final version of the report to the Executive Board for consideration.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

- 4 Consultation has taken place with a wide range of stakeholders – a full list is included in the inquiry report in line with the requirements of the Scrutiny Board Procedure Rules.
- 5 Further consultation has taken place with the Executive Member and senior officers. The advice at Appendix 2 sets out a formal response to the recommendations.

What are the resource implications?

- 6 There are no resource implications associated with this report.

What are the legal implications?

- 7 There are no legal implications associated with this report.

What are the key risks and how are they being managed?

- 8 There are no risk management issues associated with this report.

Does this proposal support the council's three Key Pillars?

- Inclusive Growth Health and Wellbeing Climate Emergency

- 9 The recommendations set out in the inquiry report attempt to address a range of concerns about the effect of the anti-social use of fireworks on Leeds' communities, including the impact on vulnerable citizens and partner organisations.

Options, timescales and measuring success

a) What other options were considered?

- 10 The attached report sets out the concluding recommendations of the Scrutiny Board (Environment, Housing & Communities) with the advice of the relevant senior officers attached.
- 11 It is for the Scrutiny Board to determine whether the final version of the report should now be subject to consideration by the Executive Board.

b) How will success be measured?

- 12 It will be for the Executive Board to consider what (if any) action it wishes to take as a result of the recommendations set out in the Scrutiny Board report if scrutiny board members agree to its referral.

c) What is the timetable for implementation?

- 13 Once agreed by the Scrutiny Board the final report will be referred for consideration by the Executive Board.
- 14 It will be for the Executive Board to consider what (if any) action it wishes to take as a result of the recommendations set out in the Scrutiny Board report.

Appendices

- 1 Tackling the Anti-Social use of Fireworks: Inquiry Report
- 2 Recommendation Table: Officer Response
- 3 2021 Peak Period Planning Summary (Bonfire Night/Halloween)

Background papers

- 4 None