

Council Bonfire Displays 2022

Date: 4 October 2022

Report of: Development Manager

Report to: Chief Officer Parks and Countryside

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

Brief summary

The Parks and Countryside service provide one 'city' and five 'community' free to attend bonfire and firework displays each year on or around the 5 November. The city event is held at Roundhay Park with community events held at Bramley Park, East End Park, Middleton Park, Springhead Park and Woodhouse Moor. A report to Executive Board on 21 September 2022 reported a projected £12.1 million overspend on the council's budget in 2022/23. Due to the greater cost of living pressures on local residents, this is having a significant impact on the Council's demand for services and support. In addition, the Council is facing an increase in the cost of electricity, gas, fuel along with consequential impacts on the procurement of goods and services plus a pending pay award not foreseen when the budget was originally approved in February. Given that the costs associated with restarting bonfires this year would be in excess of £200k, it is proposed that displays are cancelled this year to help meet the identified budget overspend.

Recommendations

- a) That bonfire and firework displays at Bramley Park, East End Park, Middleton Park, Roundhay Park, Springhead Park and Woodhouse Moor due to be held in November 2022, are cancelled due to financial pressures faced by the Council.

What is this report about?

- 1 This report concerns the bonfire and firework events at Bramley Park, East End Park, Middleton Park, Roundhay Park, Springhead Park and Woodhouse Moor usually held on or around 5 November. The displays did not take place in 2020 and 2021 due to issues arising from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 2 A report to Executive Board on 21 September 2022 reported a projected £12.1 million overspend on the council's budget in 2022/23. Due to the greater cost of living pressures on local residents, this is having a significant impact on the Council's demand for services and support. In addition, the Council is facing an increase in the cost of electricity, gas, fuel along with consequential impacts on the procurement of goods and services plus a pending pay award not foreseen when the budget was originally approved in February. Given that the costs associated with restarting bonfires this year would be in excess of £200k, it is proposed that displays are cancelled this year to help meet the identified budget overspend.

What impact will this proposal have?

- 3 Leeds City Council's Safer Strong Communities Team will be working closely with partners in areas across the city to mitigate any potential negative impact of fireworks and associated anti-social behaviour in the run up to and on Bonfire Night. This work will be focussed in those areas that are known to have experienced anti-social behaviour around bonfire night in previous years.

How does this proposal impact the three pillars of the Best City Ambition?

Health and Wellbeing

Inclusive Growth

Zero Carbon

- 4 There are no significant impacts identified.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected:

Have ward members been consulted?

Yes

No

- 5 Ward members directly affected by the proposal have been informed along with all other members ahead of a more general public communication.

What are the resource implications?

- 6 There is a budget saving of £115k and in addition a further £100k revenue pressure will be alleviated as a result of not holding the displays in 2022.

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

- 7 Leeds City Council's Safer Strong Communities Team will be working closely with partners in areas across the city to mitigate any potential negative impact of fireworks and associated anti-social behaviour in the run up to and on Bonfire Night. This work will be focussed in those areas that are known to have experienced anti-social behaviour around bonfire night in previous years.

What are the legal implications?

8 This is a significant operational decision and not subject to call-in.

Options, timescales and measuring success

What other options were considered?

9 The proposal to cancel the events has been made as late as possible in order to assess the latest financial position.

How will success be measured?

10 A budgeted saving of £115k in addition to alleviating a £100k pressure in the 2022/23 financial year.

What is the timetable and who will be responsible for implementation?

11 The organised displays will not go ahead as originally planned.

Appendices

- None.

Background papers

- None.