

<b>Report on</b>	Mid Ulster Bonfires – Draft Policy
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	8 <sup>th</sup> May 2018
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Mark Kelso - Director Public Health & Infrastructure

<b>Is this report restricted for confidential business?</b>	Yes	
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	No	X

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To update Members on the Bonfire Management Programme and seek approval of the Draft Policy for the Management of Bonfires on Council Property and Community Celebration – Event Guidance / Application Pack as attached.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	Members will be aware that a Bonfire Working Group has been established through the Environment Committee, which has considered a range of issues pertaining to local bonfire events held on Council property. A report on draft procedural arrangements for bonfire management was considered and agreed at the April meeting of Council with the intent of promoting public safety, reducing public risk and the maintenance of good community relations.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p>The Bonfire Management Programme is designed to assist with practical arrangements for safe bonfire management and will provide guidance and good practice to enable residents and communities to celebrate safely while reducing the potential for issues of neighbour nuisance or dangerous behaviour in accordance with Good Relations guidance.</p> <p>The Bonfire Working Group have reviewed the Draft Policy and Community Celebration Event Guidance / Application Pack, which is now being presented for member's consideration. It is recognised that the Bonfire Management Programme will require adequate resourcing for its effective implementation. The Strategic Action Plan will set out a 2 - 5 year programme of activity to support local communities who wish to hold events on Council premises to enable them to continue to promote their cultural celebrations in a safe and sustainable manner.</p> <p>In accordance with legal advices provided, the Draft Policy and Community Celebration Event Guidance will now be scheduled for public consultation in accordance with procedural guidance. The public consultation process is programmed to commence week commencing Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June and completing week commencing Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> September (including Bank Holidays). A draft timeline of the consultation process is included at Table 1 below.</p>

In conjunction with this process, Council is proposing to support the local communities hosting celebration events over the summer period by facilitating a trial of the Event Management Programme during this period to enable community representatives to become familiar with the proposals and highlight any particular issues of concern.

The Draft Policy has been subjected to initial Equality screening as part of the policy development process and screened out at this stage. A copy of the screening assessment is attached for Member's consideration.

**Table 1**

<b><u>Draft Bonfire Management Policy &amp; Procedures Consultation Process</u></b>	
<b><u>Draft Timeline - June 2018</u></b>	
<b>4<sup>th</sup> June to 4<sup>th</sup> September - Public Consultation / Pilot Exercise</b>	
4 <sup>th</sup> June – 13 week public consultation - process opens Consultation / website / stakeholder event / statutory partners Pilot Exercise – Facilitate Trial of Event Management Programme	
<b>September 2018</b>	
Review consultation responses / incorporate necessary amendments 4 week assessment / review process : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equality Impact Screening / Assessment</li> <li>• Rural Needs Assessment</li> <li>• Financial Assessment</li> </ul>	
<b>October / November 2018</b>	
Final Draft Policy & Procedures with amendments as necessary presented to Bonfire Working Group and Environment Committee for consideration	

#### **4.0 Other Considerations**

##### **4.1 Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications**

Financial: A full assessment of Financial Impact will be completed at the end of the consultation period, however apart from the cost of public liability insurance of approximately £170 – £200 there is not expected to be any other direct cost to communities as result of the implementation of this programme. Statutory Bodies will address any costs within their annual budgeting process.

	Human: As identified
	Risk Management: As identified
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: As determined
	Rural Needs Implications: As determined
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	That Members agree the Draft Policy for the Management of Bonfires on Council Property and Community Celebration – Event Guidance / Application Pack as attached and proceed with public consultation exercise as outlined and apply existing risk management procedures to any planned events this year.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
6.1	Appendix 1 – Draft Bonfire Management Policy
6.2	Appendix 2 – Equality Screening of Draft Bonfire Management Policy
6.3	Appendix 3 – Community Celebration Event Guidance / Application Pack