

## BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

### OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

11<sup>th</sup> January 2021

#### SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION PROPOSAL

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Phil Thomas
Portfolio Holder Consulted	No
Relevant Head of Service	Ruth Bamford – Head of Planning, Regeneration and Leisure Services
Wards Affected	None
Ward Councillor Consulted	No
Key Decision / Non-Key Decision	

#### 1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

- 1.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Board are requested to investigate the use of fireworks at community events in the District. This follows a notice of motion put forward by Councillor r. Hunter at the Council meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2021 as follows:

*Council notes that fireworks are an important part of many traditional celebrations including Bonfire Night, Diwali and New Years Eve. Council has for many years run a very successful Bonfire Night celebration which attracts a substantial number of visitors, positively promotes Bromsgrove and its community and raises considerable sums for charity.*

*Council also notes that leading animal charity the RSPCA has warned of the harm and distress that fireworks can cause to vulnerable members of society, pets and wildlife.*

*Council resolves to find the right balance between bringing the community together to enjoy traditional celebrations and protecting wildlife and vulnerable people.*

*Council commits to:*

- 1. Ensure our annual Bonfire Night event and all other public firework displays within the district are advertised well in advance, allowing residents to take precautions for their animals and vulnerable people*
- 2. Actively promote a public awareness campaign about the impact of fireworks on animal welfare and vulnerable people – including the precautions that can be taken to mitigate risks*
- 3. Encourage local suppliers of fireworks to also stock quieter fireworks*

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That the Board considers the request and agrees to one of the following:
- (a) that the request is included on the work programme and the Board undertakes the investigation, discuss broad terms of reference and sets a time scale for completion of the investigation; OR
  - (b) that the request is included on the work programme and a Task Group is established to undertake a more in-depth investigation, appoint a Chairman for the Task Group and set a time scale for completion of the investigation; OR
  - (c) that further information be requested from a relevant source before deciding whether or not further investigation is required; OR
  - (d) decide to take no further action.

**3. KEY ISSUES**

**Financial Implications**

- 3.1 There are no financial implications directly relating to this report, however, if the proposal is accepted, any implications would be considered as part of the subsequent investigation undertaken.

**Legal Implications**

- 3.2 There are no legal implications directly relating to this report, however, if the proposal is accepted, any implications would be considered as part of the subsequent investigation undertaken.

**Service / Operational Implications**

- 3.3 A request from full Council has been made to investigate the use of fireworks at community events in the District.
- 3.4 If the Board decides that it does wish to investigate this topic further, it then needs to decide whether it is appropriate for the Board itself to undertake the investigation or whether a more in-depth investigation is required and a task group established.

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- 3.5 Another option is for the Board to request further information on the topic from a relevant source to assist Members to decide whether an investigation is required.
- 3.6 Alternatively, the Board could decide that it is not a topic it wishes to investigate, in which case no further action would be required.

**Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications**

3.7 N/A

**4. RISK MANAGEMENT**

4.1 N/A

**5. APPENDICES**

None

**6. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None

**7. KEY**

None

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