

# **MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL**

## **REPORT FOR INFORMATION**

**COMMITTEE** Social Strategy Overview and Scrutiny  
**DATE** 11<sup>th</sup> January 2006  
**SUBJECT** Manchester Fireworks and Bonfire Campaign 2005  
**REPORT OF** Deputy Chief Executive (Performance)

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### **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To update members on the outcome of the fireworks and bonfire campaign

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

To note the report.

### **FINANCIAL CONSEQUENCES FOR THE REVENUE BUDGET**

There are no financial consequences for the revenue budget.

### **FINANCIAL CONSEQUENCES FOR THE CAPITAL BUDGET**

There are no financial consequences for the capital budget.

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### **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

None

### **WARDS**

All

<b>IMPLICATIONS FOR</b>	Anti-poverty	Equal Opportunities	Environment	Employment
	NO	NO	YES	NO

## 1. Introduction

1.1 In September last year the Committee were presented with a report about the 2005 Fireworks and Bonfire Campaign. The campaign included:-

- A Multi agency approach to planning and coordinating the campaign.
- High level of commitment by all agencies to enforcement to control the anti social use of fireworks
- Publicity of enforcement both by posters and by using the local media
- Information provision to the local community on the powers and services available to tackle fireworks and bonfire misuse.

This report details the outcome of this work.

## 2. Results of the Campaign

2.1 The agencies involved in the multi-agency campaign have provided the following feedback.

<b>Fire Service</b>	<b>Oct 2004</b>	<b>Oct 2005</b>	<b>Nov 2004</b>	<b>Nov 2005</b>
Rubbish fires	234	229	179	119
Attacks on Fire Fighters	6	12	7	8

### **Contracting Services**

	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>
Daytime	77	38	69
6pm to 10pm	30	20	11

Ward breakdown of bonfires cleared:

Ancoats and Clayton	7
Ardwick	4
Bradford	13
Cheetham	3
Curmpsall	2
Gorton North	3
Harpurhey	12
Hr Blackley	9
Hulme	2
Longsight	4
Moss Side	1
Moston	4
Newton Health/Miles Platting	12
Woodhouse Park	4
<i>Total</i>	<i>80</i>

## Trading Standards

	2003	2004	2005
Number of attempted test purchase visits	44	52	58*
Number of sales to young volunteers	0	4	2
Number of complaints/enquiries from residents regarding fireworks	19	16	55**

\* Of the 58 visits 18 premises visited did not sell fireworks. 4 were not yet stocking fireworks, 36 actual attempted test purchases took place.

\*\* Of the 55 enquiries 24 were re underage sales but as noted above several of the premises people reported as selling fireworks were not in fact selling fireworks when checked.

10 were about unregistered premises – most of these were unjustified as when checks were carried out the premises were in fact registered.

8 were about selling fireworks before 15 October. Test purchases carried out at 6 of these and 4 sales achieved and prosecutions are being prepared. These were reported to Fire Service for enforcement action (only fire service have enforcement powers in relation to sales outside the permitted period)

This year registered premises were asked to display a sticker confirming registration and retailers were happy to comply.

## Greater Manchester Police

	Total
<b>Arrests</b>	9
<b>Incidents *</b>	285
<b>Firework Seizures</b>	19
<b>FPN</b>	11
<b>Youth Interventions**</b>	247

\* Incidents attended included general complaints from the public regarding youths throwing fireworks, concerns about unlit and lit bonfires, youths in possession of fireworks, fireworks being pushed through letter boxes, officers attending premises to check registrations, fireworks being thrown at cars and general youth nuisance.

\*\* Youth interventions is the number of youths spoken with.

### Leisure Services - Organised displays

<b>Wythenshawe Park</b>	Approx. 10,000 attendance. No accidents.
<b>Heaton Park</b>	Approx. 20,000 attendance. No accidents.
<b>Debdale Park</b>	Approx. 4,000 attendance. No accidents.
<b>Philips Park</b>	Approx. 6,000 attendance. No accidents.
<b>Boggart Hole Clough</b>	Approx. 6,000 attendance. No accidents.
<b>Platt Fields Park</b>	Approx. 6,000 attendance. No accidents.

### 3. Conclusions

- 3.1 There were considerably more bonfires removed in 2005 compared to 2004. The majority of the calls about potentially dangerous bonfires occurred on the Saturday, 5 November. In 2004 bonfire night occurred on the Friday. It is likely that because bonfire night occurred at a weekend more bonfires were constructed. In 2006 bonfire night falls on a Sunday so there is likely to be a similar "rush" to build bonfires. We need to ensure that there is capacity to deal promptly with the build up at the weekend and we will also make sure that residents are aware that the removal service operates during the weekend thereby deterring the building of bonfires.
- 3.2 Trading Standards received considerably more enquiries from local residents. This increase should be viewed positively as more people are aware that action can be taken. In particular the fact that people were reporting premises that they thought were unregistered shows the success of our public information campaign. The Fire Authority is currently considering prosecutions of the premises selling without registration prior to the 15<sup>th</sup> October.

- 3.3 The Greater Manchester Police operation called, Operation Sealyham continued to record a downward trend in the numbers of incidents. In 2004 over 40 incidents were reported on the weekend before bonfire night in North Division compared to 2005 when 32 incidents were reported. In 2005 all divisions were involved in the campaign and enforcement levels increased. These enforcement results will be publicised in the 2006 campaign to act as a deterrent to anti social behaviour.
- 3.4 Overall the campaign was successful and even more agencies were involved. Subjective feedback was that the run up to Bonfire Night was quiet but people were not adhering to the midnight curfew. This will be rigorously enforced next year particularly as Bonfire Night is on a Sunday.