

## report

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| meeting | <b>NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AND CITY OF NOTTINGHAM<br/>FIRE &amp; RESCUE AUTHORITY</b> |                    |
| date    | <b>24 February 2006</b>   | agenda item number |

### REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

#### FIREWORKS IN SAFE HANDS – COMMUNITY SAFETY EVENT

##### 1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform Members of a pro-active partnership Community Safety Campaign which was held between the 26 October 2005 and 4 November 2005.

##### 2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 There are a number of serious injuries and property damage caused each year by the misuse of fireworks and bonfires. In 2004 Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service attended twenty-seven firework related incidents during October and November, of which eight occurred on 5 November 2004. A number of fire crews were maliciously attacked by youths throwing fireworks, endangering the crews' safety. Many of these incidents occurred in disadvantaged areas of Nottingham.
- 2.2 A safety campaign was therefore designed to reduce the number of avoidable injuries from misuse of fireworks and bonfires. This campaign also aimed to reduce the number of accidental and deliberate fire related deaths in line with the targets set out by the ODPM National Framework document 2005/06.

##### 3 REPORT

- 3.1 A press event was held at the Nottingham Forest Football Club on 1 November 2005, when the club's goalkeeper, Paul Gerrard, assisted the event by holding sparklers while wearing his goalkeeper gloves. As a goalkeeper for a professional football team the idea was that items in his hands would be safe. The photograph was featured in the Nottingham Evening Post.
- 3.2 In addition, a hundred people from Broxtowe were invited to attend an educational safety event at Fire Service Headquarters on 3 November 2005. The Evening Post and Central News also attended to publicise this event and safety messages to our communities. Asda Arnold provided food and drink for all people attending free of charge and the initiative was supported by 1st Galaxy Fireworks.

##### 4 SUMMARY OF SUCCESSFUL PROJECTS

- 4.1 The first press release featuring Paul Gerrard was printed and distributed on 1 November 2005. Paul Gerrard was asked to help, as he is a popular sportsman in Nottinghamshire, respected by many of our target age group, with the idea of fireworks being in 'Safe Hands'.
- 4.2 The safety event held at Headquarters on 3 November 2005 successfully provided a public education campaign for our communities in Nottinghamshire around

bonfire/firework safety and was very positively received. The Evening Post printed a full page reporting on the event which was distributed on 4 November 2005 – this was the night prior to bonfire night so the safety messages would be fresh in people's minds. The above event was also publicised on Central News at Six – the prime time for the maximum amount of viewers. The five minute feature was viewed by 1.5 million people.

- 4.3 Following the safety campaign the Service attended fewer firework related incidents during October and November 2005 : twenty-three firework related incidents were attended of which three occurred on 5 November 2005. This means a 15% reduction overall and a reduction of 62% for the night of 5 November 2005.

## **5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The only costs incurred to the Authority as part of the safety campaign were in relation to display and safety equipment, which amounted to £272, and were contained within existing budgets.

## **6 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no personnel implications arising from this report.

## **7 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

There are no equality issues arising from this report.

## **8 RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

A full risk assessment was carried out in line with the ODPM Bonfire/Firework event advice, given the potential risk of injury from various hazards on the night.

## **9 RECOMMENDATIONS**

That Members note the contents of this report.

Paul Woods  
**CHIEF FIRE OFFICER**