

Extract of the minutes of the Good Relations Partnership of 9th March , 2015

“Review of Bonfire Management Programme

The Programme Manager reminded the Partnership that at its meeting on 8th December, 2014, it had appointed Lindsay Advisory Consultants to carry out an independent, comprehensive evaluation of the Council’s Bonfire Management Programme 2014. It was agreed that the evaluation would include an analysis of the development of the Programme since 2005, give due consideration to those bonfires which were not currently part of the Programme, provide options for any future Programme based on the review of the current delivery model and consider the impact of Local Government Reform on the Council.

He informed Members that Ms. S. Lindsay, of Lindsay Advisory Consultants, was in attendance in order to provide details on the review and she was welcomed to the meeting. Ms. Lindsay presented to the members the outcomes of the review, which included the history of the programme to date, the outturns, the lessons learned and proposals for a future framework for the programme. She emphasised that the future programme should be outcome-focussed and include a number of recommendations for both short and long term objectives.

After a number of questions from members, the Chairman thanked Ms. Lindsay for her presentation and she left the meeting.

The Programme Manager presented a report to the Partnership which outlined a number of key findings from the review and a range of issues for members to consider. During discussion, a Member reminded the Partnership that it had previously agreed that information should be sought from the relevant agencies in relation to the number of bonfire-related crimes, such as assaults, incidences of hate crime, theft of materials and damage caused to roads and properties in 2014. The Programme Manager explained that these statistics had been difficult to collate but that he would endeavour to bring this information to a future meeting. A number of Members were in agreement that a public space should be set aside for bonfires, which could also be used for other events throughout the year.

After discussion, the issue was deferred to allow consideration of the issues which had been raised within the review and it was agreed that officers would bring a further report with the requested information to a future meeting of the Partnership.”