**Policy title: Policy on Bonfires on Council Land**



**Policy Control**

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| **Policy reference:** | AHC2 |
| **Title of Policy:** | Policy on Bonfires on Council Land |
| **Version:** | V5 |
| **Directorate / Departmental ownership:** | Active & Healthy Communities / Engagement  |
| **Officer responsible:** | Martina Flynn, Safer Communities & Good Relations Manager |
| **Date of ratification:** | 3 April 2023 |
| **Review date:** | 3 April 2027 |
| **Equality screening and Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed by:** | Colin Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy |
| **Equality screening and Rural Needs Impact Assessment date:** | 13 May 2021 |
| **Location where document is held and referenced:** | Responsible Department [x] Corporate Policy repository [x]  |

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| **1.** | **Title of policy** |
|  | Policy on Bonfires on Council Land. |
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| **2.** | **Aim and objectives** |
| 2.1 | **Policy Aim:** To provide guidance on the risk management of bonfires held on Council land. |
| 2.2 | **Policy Objectives:*** To respect the celebration of cultural expression while focusing on health and safety guidance.
* To engage where possible with communities to encourage and promote education and awareness of the health and safety risks and good relations matters associated with bonfires.
* To ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and wellbeing of contractors, visitors and members of the public accessing Council land in accordance with statutory requirements.
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| **3.** | **Scope** |
|  | The policy relates to bonfires on Council land. The policy relates to all those involved with the organisation and delivery of bonfires on Council land. The policy does not cover fireworks or any other outdoor event on Council land.  |
| **4.** | **Related policies and legislation** |
|  | Public bodies have statutory responsibilities if, and when, bonfires are constructed on their land. Newry, Mourne & Down District Council commits to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and wellbeing of its employees and others (contractors, visitors and members of the public) in accordance with best practice including all relevant statutory requirements and associated codes of practice and guidance. This policy is to assist the Council to comply with its statutory duties with respect to: 1. Public liability and Health and Safety to control risk to employees and others (contractors, visitors and members of the public) accessing Council land, and
2. Good Relations and Community Safety, Waste Management, Environmental Protection (Air Quality) and Public Health.

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) Implications:This policy will comply with Council’s GDPR requirements. This will include the appropriate management of personal information that may be provided for local events. |
| **5.** | **General principles**  |
|  | Newry, Mourne & Down District Council will commit to the following: * To support the Bonfire Sub Group of Newry, Mourne & Down Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP) to develop an Action Plan which includes working with communities to support safe and sustainable events which are supported by local communities.
* To support the PCSP led, multi-agency Bonfire Sub Group to take a strategic overview on the impact of bonfires in the Council area.
* To develop protocols with other statutory agencies to ensure no toxic or hazardous material is stored or placed upon a bonfire.
* To promote education in demonstrating the social and environmental impacts associated with bonfires and highlight the benefits and advantages of inclusive alternative celebrations.
* Where bonfires are on Council land and the organiser(s) are not adhering to safety or environmental requirements, the Council shall take steps to manage its land accordingly. In doing so Council shall take proportionate steps to manage risk accordingly.
* To promote and encourage all other landowners to adopt a similar approach to develop and implement similar policies and practices.
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| **6.** | **Department and Officer responsible** |
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| Directorate / Department | Active & Healthy Communities / Safer Communities & Good Relations |
| Officer(s) responsible for developing the policy | Martina Flynn, Safer Communities & Good Relations Manager |

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| **7.** | **Policy approval process** |
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| **Meeting** | **Date** |
| CMT | *7 March 2023* |
| SMT  | *1 February 2023* |
| *Relevant Committee(s) – Active & Healthy Communities (AHC)* | *20 March 2023* |
| Monthly Council Meeting  | *3 April 2023* |

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| **8.** | **Review Date** |
|  | The Policy on Bonfires on Council Land will be reviewed every 4 years or sooner as required due to legislative/operational requirements. |
| **9.** | **Procedures and arrangements for monitoring the implementation and impact of the policy** |
|  | Advice and guidance on the implementation of this Policy will be sought from the Senior Management Team, specifically the Directors of Active & Healthy Communities and Neighbourhood Services. |
| **10.** | **Equality Screening** |
|  | The Policy on Bonfires on Council Land has been equality screened and it is recommended it not be subject to an equality impact assessment (with no mitigating measures required).  |
| **11.** | **Rural Needs Impact Assessment** |
|  | Due regards to rural needs has been considered and the policy has been subject to a rural needs impact assessment.  |