
Report To:	Environment & Regeneration Committee	Date:	29 August 2024
Report By:	Director Environment & Regeneration	Report No:	ENV044/24/MM
Contact Officer:	Martin McNab	Contact No:	01475 714246
Subject:	Firework Control Zone Update		

1.0 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 For Decision For Information/Noting
- 1.2 To update the Committee on the development of processes for consultation on Firework Control Zones and discussions with partners on whether it was appropriate to propose development of a zone for 2024.
- 1.3 Consultation with Community Safety Partners following bonfire night 2023 led to the decision that there was no evidence base to justify Council proposals for a Firework Control Zone for 2024. Officers will revisit this on an annual basis following bonfire night.
- 1.4 There have been no community requests for the development of a Firework Control Zone in 2024.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Committee notes the contents of this report including the fact that this matter will be considered by officers on an annual basis.

Stuart Jamieson
Director, Environment & Regeneration

3.0 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

- 3.1 The Guidance on the development of Firework Control Zones was brought to the attention of the Committee in November 2023 just before 5th November. Officers advised on the limited circumstances outlined in the guidance in which a firework control zone would be appropriate. A copy of the guidance was included as an appendix to the report.
- 3.2 The Scottish Government was offering funding for the consultation phase of Firework Control Zones and the Committee approved an expression of interest should development of a zone be considered appropriate.
- 3.3 The November 2023 Committee also approved a process for the development of Firework Control Zones and a process for the Community Requests for Firework Control Zones to be considered.
- 3.4 The report highlighted that enforcement of firework control zones rests with Police Scotland and that initial discussions on the potential development of a zone should be taken forward through the Community Safety Partnership.
- 3.5 The 2023 report covered the limitations and evidence base required for a zone as detailed in the Scottish Government Guidance, a link to which is available on the Council's dedicated webpage.

4.0 CURRENT SITUATION

- 4.1 Following bonfire night 2023 there was discussion on the potential need for firework control zones in Inverclyde at the Police & Fire Scrutiny Committee. Bonfire night 2023 and the surrounding days were relatively free of incidents and it was agreed that officers would consult further with partners to discuss both whether there was a perceived need for a Council promoted FCZ and whether that could be supported, in particular by Police Scotland.
- 4.2 Further meetings were held with Community Safety Partners, and it was agreed that, at that time, there was no evidence to support the development of a Firework Control Zone promoted by the Council in the course of 2024. Should there have been any evidence to support such a zone this would have been taken to the Corporate Management Team prior to consultation with the Environment & Regeneration Committee considering the consultation outcome in line with the process approved by the November 2023 Committee. Since these consultations Police Scotland has developed a more formal Memorandum of Understanding on consultation on Firework Control Zones. The situation will be kept under review with the matter being reconsidered after every bonfire night or following any incidents involving fireworks.
- 4.3 A dedicated Firework Control webpage (<https://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/community-life-and-leisure/community-safety-and-resilience/firework-control>) was developed early in 2024 with a dedicated mailbox for community requests. To date no requests have been received. In order to carry out the required consultation process requests would need to have been received by early June to enable zones to be in force by bonfire night. Competent requests will obviously be considered in line with the approved process whenever received.

5.0 DEVELOPMENT OF FIREWORK CONTROL ZONES IN OTHER LOCAL AUTHORITIES

- 5.1 Glasgow City Council is currently consulting on a number of potential Firework Control Zones as a result of community requests with the intention of bringing successful zones into operation in time for this year's bonfire night. Glasgow has been very active in promoting the process, as a result of misuse of fireworks in areas of the city in previous years.

5.2 Edinburgh City Council is currently consulting on a “city wide” Council proposed Firework Control Zone. Such a zone is specifically ruled out in the Scottish Government guidance and this fact is recognised by a disclaimer on the Council’s website. The current guidance is clear that zones must be “evidence-based and proportionate”. Officers are not aware of any consultations on Firework Control Zones in any other Local Authorities.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendation(s) is(are) agreed:

SUBJECT	YES	NO
Financial		X
Legal/Risk		X
Human Resources		X
Strategic (Partnership Plan/Council Plan)		X
Equalities, Fairer Scotland Duty & Children/Young People’s Rights & Wellbeing		X
Environmental & Sustainability		X
Data Protection		X

6.2 Finance

None.

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
N/A					

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact	Virement From (if Applicable)	Other Comments
N/A					

6.3 Legal/Risk

None.

6.4 Human Resources

There are no direct human resources implications arising from this report.

6.5 Strategic

There are no direct strategic implications arising from this report.

6.6 Equalities, Fairer Scotland Duty & Children/Young People

The development of processes for the consideration of firework control zones will require to consider Equalities particularly where community consultations are required to ensure equity of access by hard-to-reach groups. Access to fireworks by Children & Young People is already controlled by legislation. However, there are no such implications arising directly from this report.

7.0 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 Consultations were carried out on the potential to develop Firework Control Zone proposals with Community Safety Partners, specifically Police Scotland and the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 8.1 Firework Control Zones Environment & Regeneration Committee 2 November 2023
ENV054/23/SJ/MM