

EX103. Motion referred to the Executive under Standing Order 31 from the meeting of Falkirk Council on 4 December 2019

On 4 December 2019, and in accordance with Standing Order 31.1, Council referred the following motion, proposed by Councillor Kerr, to the Executive:-

Council agrees:-

- (1) to agree in principle to require all public firework displays within the authority area to be advertised in advance of the event to allow residents to take precautions for their animals and for vulnerable people and requests the Director of Corporate & Housing Services to consider a standard condition to this effect for any public entertainment licence granted for a public firework display;
- (2) to actively promote a public awareness campaign about the impact of fireworks on animal welfare and vulnerable people – including the precautions that can be taken to mitigate risks;
- (3) to write to the UK Government urging them to introduce legislation to limit the maximum noise level of fireworks to 90dB for those sold to the public for private use; and
- (4) to encourage local suppliers of fireworks to stock ‘quieter’ fireworks for public display.

Councillor Bissett, seconded by Councillor Nimmo, moved the terms of the motion.

As an amendment, Councillor Garner, seconded by Councillor Hughes, moved that the Executive:-

- (1) notes the significant public concern related to the sale and use of fireworks and the impact their noise can have in particular on: vulnerable individuals, those with mental health concerns, veterans, domestic pets, guide, assistance dogs and wild animals;
- (2) notes the proactive and positive actions of the Scottish Government in undertaking a comprehensive public consultation in 2019, resulting in the “Fireworks Action Plan: Promoting the safe and appropriate use of Fireworks in Scotland” (Published Oct 2019)
- (3) notes the summary of actions published in the above report including: an awareness raising campaign already undertaken in Oct-Nov 19; Medium term actions relating to coming years’ events, and the establishment of a Fireworks Review Group due to report to Government by summer of 2020;
- (4) notes the positive experience many in our communities have in coming together to experience firework displays and the positive

effect such event have on levels of public safety in reducing antisocial behaviour;

- (5) notes the important role our Fire and Rescue service and other emergency services play in keeping the public safe, surrounding the traditional fireworks period;
- (6) agrees to give every assistance to the Scottish Government's "Fireworks Review Group" and continue to input through Community Safety and Local Government Forums, as appropriate;
- (7) agrees to instruct officers to produce a report following the publication of the Scottish Government's "Fireworks Review Group" recommendations, highlighting any measures which can be taken specifically within the competence of local government, and
- (8) agrees to express our continued thanks and appreciation to our Emergency Services for the vital role they play in keeping the public safe regarding the use of fireworks.

Following discussion clauses 6, 7 and 8 of the amendment along with clauses 1 and 3 of the motion were identified as being practical actions which could be taken.

The convener proposed that these practical actions were amalgamated into one proposal. Councillor Bissett as the mover of the motion, with the consent of Councillor Nimmo as his seconder, accepted the revised terms and accordingly altered the motion.

Following the alteration of the motion, Councillor Garner, with the unanimous consent of those present, withdrew the amendment.

Decision

The Executive agreed:-

- (1) to give every assistance to the Scottish Government's "Fireworks Review Group" and continue to input through Community Safety and Local Government Forums, as appropriate;**
- (2) to instruct officers to produce a report following the publication of the Scottish Government's "Fireworks Review Group" recommendations, highlighting any measures which can be taken specifically within the competence of local government;**
- (3) to express our continued thanks and appreciation to our Emergency Services for the vital role they play in keeping the public safe regarding the use of fireworks;**
- (4) in principle to require all public firework displays within the authority area to be advertised in advance of the event to allow**

residents to take precautions for their animals and for vulnerable people and requests the Director of Corporate & Housing Services to consider a standard condition to this effect for any public entertainment licence granted for a public firework display, and

- (5) to write to the UK Government urging them to introduce legislation to limit the maximum noise level of fireworks to 90dB for those sold to the public for private use.**