The Pennine Community Safety Partnership, of which Blackburn with Darwen is a full member has highlighted significant concerns from communities across the region with regards the private use of fireworks. Fireworks are used by people throughout the year to mark different events. Whilst they can bring much enjoyment to some people when used in the right way, they can cause significant problems and fear for other people and animals.

Animals are particularly vulnerable to their use with the RSPCA raising repeated concerns with government as detailed in their "Bang Out of Order" report. This notes that "loud noises, that are unpredictable and out of an animal's control – as is the case with fireworks – are particularly stressful for them. Being unpredictable, as well as intermittent and relatively infrequent, also makes it unlikely that animals will acclimatise to fireworks noise."

This isn't just an issue for domestic animals and wildlife. Vulnerable people can become confused and disorientated by the noise of fireworks, and of further concern individuals and groups can and do put themselves at risk of harm through their inappropriate use with significant resources locally having to be deployed each year to police private and unofficial events through the BrightSpark programme.

 Council resolves:

(i)   To request that organisers of all public firework displays within Blackburn with Darwen advertise them in advance of the event, allowing residents to take precautions for their animals and vulnerable people;

(ii)   To support public awareness about the impact of fireworks on animal welfare and vulnerable people – including the precautions that can be taken to mitigate risks;

(iii)   To write to the UK Government urging them to introduce legislation to limit firework sales to licensed firework operators and prevent their sale to the general public. To also limit the maximum noise level of fireworks to 90 decibels for those sold for private displays.

Proposed by: Councillor Mustafa Desai

Seconded by: Councillor Andy Kay