**Briefing note for Councillors: Public Space Protection Order to prevent lighting of fires and barbecues on moorland sites within Bradford District.**

The recent moorland fires on Ilkley Moor and further afield at Marsden Moor (in Kirklees) over the Easter weekend have prompted local authorities to look at additional measures to prevent further outbreaks as a result of negligent behaviour involving camp fires and portable barbecues. These have proven to be the cause of recent fires this year and in previous years.

The recent fire at Ilkley Moor – owned by the Council – was particularly costly in terms of resources deployed by the West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service, the Council, West Yorkshire Police and other agencies, not to mention the environmental damage and risk to property. We have been looking at ways in which we can reduce the amount and impacts of such incidents in the District for some time. As part of this approach and in line with neighbouring authorities, we took a report to Regulatory and Appeals Committee on Monday 20th May, requesting that approval be given to start a consultation and then introduce a Public Space Protection Order to prohibit fires and barbecues on certain sites in the Bradford District. This approval was given. The consultation is required by the regulations (Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, Section 59) and must last for a minimum period of 4 weeks. The consultation is available via the Council’s Consultations web page ([www.bradford.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.bradford.gov.uk/consultations))

In the aftermath of the Ilkley fire (and Marsden Moor), the Chief Fire Officer for West Yorkshire has written to our Chief Executive in support of such a move.

**Scope of the Order:**

The geographic extent of the “restricted areas” defined in the Order is all publicly accessible moorland within the District (see attached plan). This includes both Council owned and privately owned land, where people have a right of access. The landowners affected have been consulted and are supportive.

The Order will last for 3 years from June 2019 to June 2022 and then will be reviewed.

Its effect will be to prohibit fires, barbecues, Chinese lanterns and fireworks or using any article which causes a naked flame and which poses a risk of fire on the affected land, subject to a fixed penalty notice and a fine not exceeding £100 if they do not comply with a request to extinguish and surrender such articles. The Order will be enforced by authorised Council staff and police (in some circumstances).

The Order does not include Council owned parks and woodlands as these are already covered by byelaws and the evidence of risk and incidents (which must inform the Order) is lower on those sites than on moorland.

If you would like any further information on this, please contact Danny Jackson, Countryside and Rights of Way Manager (tel: 01274 431230) (email: danny.jackson@bradford.gov.uk)

