



Policy, Finance and Development Committee	Tuesday, 27 November 2018	Matter for Information and Decision
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Report Title: **Proposed Drone and Model Aircraft Usage Policy**

Report Author(s): **Thomas Maccabe (Anti-Social Behaviour Officer)**

Purpose of Report:	There are a rising number of individuals flying drones and model aircraft in the Borough; therefore there is a need to implement a policy for their usage on Council land.
Report Summary:	<p>As a landowner, the Council has a duty to consider the safety of the public using its land. The rise in ownership and usage of drones and model aircraft has resulted in the need for the Council to consider adopting a policy on the issue.</p> <p>The Council does not currently have a policy covering drone and model aircraft usage. This could leave the authority liable for subsequent actions brought about by drone and model aircraft activity when operated from land under our ownership. The report therefore proposes the formal adoption of the policy set out in at Appendix 1 to this report.</p>
Recommendation(s):	That the Proposed Drone and Model Aircraft Usage Policy (as set out at Appendix 1) be approved and adopted.
Responsible Strategic Director, Head of Service and Officer Contact(s):	<p>Anne Court (Chief Executive) (0116) 257 2602 anne.court1@oadby-wigston.gov.uk</p> <p>David Gill (Head of Law & Governance / Monitoring Officer) (0116) 257 2626 david.gill@oadby-wigston.gov.uk</p> <p>Thomas Maccabe (Anti-Social Behaviour Officer) (0116) 257 2611 thomas.maccabe@oadby-wigston.gov.uk</p>
Corporate Priorities:	Green & Safe Places (CP4) Wellbeing for All (CP5)
Vision and Values:	Accountability (V1) Respect (V2)
Report Implications:-	
Legal:	There are no implications arising from the report.
Financial:	There are no implications arising from the report.
Corporate Risk Management:	Regulatory Governance (CR6)
Equalities and Equalities	There are no implications arising from this report.

Assessment (EA):	EA not applicable.
Human Rights:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Health and Safety:	Restricting or not giving permission to flying unmanned aircrafts or drones, especially those with recording devices attached, protects residents and visitors from unauthorised filming and the potential risk of disturbance, annoyance or harassment.
Statutory Officers' Comments:-	
Head of Paid Service:	The report is satisfactory.
Chief Finance Officer:	The report is satisfactory.
Monitoring Officer:	The report is satisfactory.
Consultees:	None.
Background Papers:	Civilian Aviation Authority (CAA) Air Navigation Order 2016
Appendices:	1. Proposed Drone and Model Aircraft Usage Policy (November 2018)

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Over the past few years there have been a rising number of requests to fly drones within the Council's parks and open spaces. Most of the requests are from members of the public who have purchased a drone and are looking for a space to fly it. The Council also receives a small number of requests from commercial companies.

2. Background

- 2.1 Over the last few years technology regarding drones has advanced significantly with many drones also fitted with recording equipment. Drones have also become more affordable for the general public for recreational activity use.
- 2.2 The regulations for recreational drone flights are contained within the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) Air Navigation Order 2016 (ANO) which is the primary document for all aviation regulations within the UK.
- 2.3 In addition to these regulations the government is introducing legislation that will require owners of drones weighing 250 grams and over to register details of their drones and users will have to sit safety awareness tests to prove that they understand UK safety, security and privacy regulations.
- 2.4 Whilst most drone flights are likely to be harmless recreation, they have the potential, in the wrong hands, to present a danger to the public as well as a nuisance to others.
- 2.5 As requests are increasing for flying drones from or over Council land there may be a risk to the Council if the regulations for recreational drone flights are broken or a member of the public is injured.
- 2.6 It is proposed therefore that the Council adopt an Unmanned Model Aircraft Policy that will inform the public on the Council's position for flying any unmanned model aircrafts from or over Council land unless the land is designated for such a purpose under the policy.

- 2.7 The draft policy proposes that the general public should not be permitted to fly unmanned aircraft (including drones) from or over any OWBC owned or managed land. Exemptions will apply to the Emergency Services, whilst permission may be granted where usage of a drone device will aid risk reduction in the work place such as working at height, land and building survey work and/or undertaking a professional service such as festivals & events media coverage.

3. Conclusion

- 3.1 The Civil Aviation Authority recognises that unmanned flying model aircrafts and drones are rising in popularity and have introduced regulations for their use.
- 3.2 To allow staff to be consistent when dealing with these enquiries and to protect the Council from any liability from the flying of these aircraft, a policy needs to be in place. A draft policy is attached at **Appendix 1** for Members' consideration.
- 3.3 This policy is intended to restrict the use of unmanned model aircraft in order to avoid any potential danger to the public at large, and therefore proposes that the general public will not be authorised to fly personal aircraft or drones from any Council land unless the land is designated for such a purpose under the policy.