

## Policy Panel

September 2021

Item

10

Report of	Assistant Director for Environment	Author	Rosa Tanfield
Title	Drone Policy review		☎ 538047
Wards affected	All Wards		

### 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 Policy Panel have been asked to review a refreshed Drone Policy and set out recommendations to Cabinet.

### 2. Action Required

- 2.1 That the proposed Policy document is reviewed
- 2.2 Recommendations for changes are made to Cabinet

### 3. Reason for Review

- 3.1 To set out clear updated legislation to minimise impact to the community in line with Neighbourhood services standard operating procedures.

#### **4. Background Information**

- 4.1 The Council has in place a UAV and Drone Policy. It was last reviewed in 2018. A review of the existing Policy has been undertaken and formalises the Council's approach to the use and permission of unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) and drones on Council land.
- 4.2 Due consideration has been given to operational and public impact of both the use of UAV and drones in communities and the approach by Officers.
- 4.3 The proposed Policy is set out in Appendix A.
- 4.4 Policy Panel are asked to review and make recommendations to Cabinet.

#### **5. Equality, Diversity and Human Rights implications**

- 5.1 All new policies and any major changes to a policy need an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA). This can be found [here](#).

#### **6. Strategic Plan References**

- 6.1 The proposed Policy and work undertaken by the Neighbourhood Services Team to maintain clean and safe neighbourhoods, directly links to the strategic objective "creating safe, healthy and active communities: [Strategic Plan 2020-23](#).

#### **7. Consultation**

- 7.1 Consultation has not been undertaken on the proposed Policy.

#### **8. Publicity Considerations**

- 8.1 The Policy document will be publicly accessible to give assurance of the Council's approach to graffiti cleansing and enforcement.

#### **9. Financial implications**

- 9.1 The work to deliver the Policy will be undertaken within the Neighbourhood Service's existing revenue budget.

#### **10. Health, Wellbeing and Community Safety Implications**

- 10.1 As set out within the Policy document, sets out an approach to reduce anti-social behaviour and fear of crime, to ensure residents and visitors feel safe and able to access their communities.

#### **11. Health and Safety Implications**

- 11.1 The approved Policy document will be supported by Standard Operational Procedures, Risk Assessments and training provided to those involved in the activities proposed.

## **12. Risk Management Implications**

- 12.1 Clarity of the Council's approach in a publicly accessible document will set out clear expectation and assurance for the public on the Council's policy to tackle graffiti.

## **13. Environmental and Sustainability Implications**

- 13.1 It has been noted in the policy that drones can cause distress to wildlife. Therefore, in the approval of any requests for permissions to fly drones, the Council will consider how the drone activity may impact wildlife in the areas being suggested for flying and refer users to appropriate guidance to minimise disturbance.
- 13.2 In circumstances where the Council uses a drone, the impact on wildlife and the environment will be considered. This includes the consideration of potential positive environmental impacts that could arise from using a drone, compared to other methods of completing an activity. For example, drones may be a useful way to collect information on the condition of some of our green spaces rather than driving around in vehicles to do this.