

UAV / Drone Policy

Report to: **Executive**
Date: **1st December 2016**
Title: **Adoption of a UAV / Drone Policy**
Portfolio Area: **Customer First**
Wards Affected: **All**
Relevant Scrutiny Committee: Internal

Urgent Decision: **N** Approval and clearance obtained: **N/A**

Date next steps can be taken: **After full Council on 15 December 2016**

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Recommendations:

1. To recommend to Council to formally adopt the UAV / Drone Policy as attached at appendix A with immediate effect

1. Executive summary

1.1 As a land owner, South Hams District Council (SHDC) has a duty to consider the safety of the public using its land. The rise in ownership and use of drones and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), has resulted in the need for SHDC to consider a policy on the issue.

1.2 This report proposes the formal adoption of the UAV / Drone Policy as set out in Appendix A to this report.

UAV / Drone Policy

2. Background

- 2.1 Reduction in price and improvement of technology in the drone market has led to a steep rise in drone ownership in the last few years.
- 2.2 Drones with camera technology are subject to civil aviation authority legislation, and the operators of such craft have to have a licence. They are quite stringent requirements in place to ensure that drones of this nature have the required permissions to take off and land, as well as a requirement not to fly over crowded spaces.
- 2.3 Drones without camera technology are not regulated and can be bought and flown in the same day, irrelevant of experience. Whilst most drone flights are presently harmless recreation, they have the potential in the wrong hands, to present a danger to the public as well as a nuisance to others.
- 2.4 For these reasons, it is proposed to restrict the usage of drones from SHDC land as follows:
 - 2.4.1 Drones with camera technology to be restricted to commercial operation only in relation to; education or tourism (promotion of place), other commercial uses by agreement.
 - 2.4.2 Drones without camera technology to be restricted in entirety.

3. Outcomes / outputs

- 3.1 An adopted drone policy will ensure that SHDC is able to control this activity and therefore ensure the continued safety and enjoyment of the general public on its land.

4. Options available and consideration of risk

- 4.1 Should members decide to adopt the policy, it may become necessary to enforce it in the future. It is envisaged that this would be done through the use of signage, supported as necessary by locality officers on the ground, and following relevant legal advice.

5. Proposed Way Forward

- 5.1 That SHDC members consider the drone policy and formally adopt it with immediate effect, to be reviewed after three years, or earlier if required.

UAV / Drone Policy

6. Implications

Implications	Relevant to proposals Y/N	Details and proposed measures to address
Legal/Governance	Y	The legal implications have been addressed in the body of the report and in the policy itself.
Financial	N	There could be future cost implications if the policy requires enforcing, but this remains to be seen.
Risk	Y	Adoption of the strategy reduces the risk of accidents occurring on SHDC land.
Comprehensive Impact Assessment Implications		
Equality and Diversity	N	Not applicable.
Safeguarding	N	Not applicable.
Community Safety, Crime and Disorder	N	Not applicable.
Health, Safety and Wellbeing	Y	The policy would reduce the health and safety risk associated with UAV flight on SHDC land.
Other implications	N	

Supporting Information

Appendices:

Appendix A – West Devon and South Hams UAV / Drone Policy