



REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

SKY LANTERNS POLICY

Purpose of the Report

1. To adopt a County Council policy to ban the use and sale of sky lanterns (also known as Chinese lanterns) on land or property owned and/or controlled by the Council.

Information and Advice

2. The use of sky lanterns is becoming more popular at weddings and festivals. Their increased usage is having a harmful impact on livestock and on the environment due to litter. This is having a particular impact on the marine environment, farming industry and parks. In addition, there have been incidents of fires started by sky lanterns dropping from the sky and causing widespread damage.
3. The Community Safety Committee considered and approved a report on 25 November 2014 to ban the use and sale of sky lanterns on land or property owned and/or controlled by the Council. At the time, this decision was never formalised into a policy and whilst there is a link in the Council Policy Library to the Community Safety Committee report, this report seeks to formalise the position.
4. The Policy is straightforward and entirely in accordance with the decision previously made by Committee

Other Options Considered

5. To have no Policy but it is difficult to enforce without a formal Policy decision

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

6. A ban on the sale and release of sky lanterns would reduce the risk of harm and fire as outlined above.
7. The Fire Service, RSPCA and many other organisations including the Marine Conservation Society, Women's Food & Farming Union, Soil Association and National Farmers Union all support a ban on sky lanterns.

Statutory and Policy Implications

8. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working,

sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION/S

The Committee is asked to agree:

That the policy to ban the use and sale of sky lanterns on land or property owned and/or controlled by the Council be approved and communicated to all relevant parties.

Councillor Kay Cutts
Leader of the Council

For any enquiries about this report, please contact:

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Constitutional Comments

The recommendation is within the remit of Policy Committee under its terms of reference. [CEH 02.11.17]

Financial Comments (SES 03/11/17)

There are no specific financial implications arising directly from this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- None

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All