

Bolsover District Council

Climate Change & Communities Scrutiny Committee on 12 July 2022

Review of Council Policy on Sky Lanterns and Helium Balloons

Report of the Chair of Climate Change & Communities Scrutiny Committee

Classification	This report is Public
Report By	Cllr Nick Clarke, Chair of Climate Change & Communities Scrutiny Committee
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PURPOSE/SUMMARY OF REPORT

- To assess progress against an outstanding mini-review, agreed by the previous Healthy, Safe, Clean & Green Scrutiny Committee, of the Council's current policy in relation to sky lanterns and helium balloons

REPORT DETAILS

1. Background

- 1.1 At various intervals in the last five years the Council has received requests from the public for the Council to consider its policy in relation to sky lanterns and helium balloons.
- 1.2 The details within the report and background information within the appendices aims to advise Members of the current situation and evidence supporting the need for the review.
- 1.3 Members should be mindful that while there is national legislation in relation to these environmental issues, at a local level we would be limited in what else we can put in place. This is likely to be limited to action on council owned land and property.
- 1.4 The option to lobby at a national level for change would still remain open to the authority.

2. Details of Proposal or Information

Sky lanterns and helium balloons

- 2.1 The Council has received a number of requests from the public over recent years for Members to consider

	No. of Comments/Complaints Received
2022/23	Awaiting recent data
2021/22	Awaiting recent data
2020/21	7
2019/20	3
2018/19	2
2017/18	2

- 2.2 Attached at appendix 6.1 is the scope produced which focussed on the issues related to sky lanterns and helium balloons in the locality and draft motions/campaigns by a number of national agencies such as the National Farmers Union and RSPCA.
- 2.3 In light of the continued contact to the Council on the issue, there is a suggestion from the Customer Standards & Complaints Officer and Environmental Health officers that this be reconsidered as a positive step the Council can take.

3. Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1 The Scrutiny & Elections Officer was approached by the Customer Standards & Complaints Officer in relation to the number of comments/requests received by the Council.
- 3.2 This topic has been suggested as a potential review topic previously but not taken forward at that stage.
- 3.3 The previous Scrutiny Committee have a scope agreed and a draft survey produced should Members still wish to pursue that approach.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 4.1 Committee Members could choose not to take the proposed topic forward at this stage if they feel there is insufficient evidence or that the impact of scrutiny would be limited.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. That Members consider taking forward the review topic previously commenced.

2. That Members review and amend the scope and core objectives agreed as required.

IMPLICATIONS:

Finance and Risk: Yes No

Details: None from this report. Should the review be taken forward, Members may agree recommendations that have a financial or risk implication.

On behalf of the Section 151 Officer

Legal (including Data Protection): Yes No

Details: None from this report.

On behalf of the Solicitor to the Council

Staffing: Yes No

Details: None from this report. Should the review be taken forward, Members may agree recommendations that have a human resource implication.

On behalf of the Head of Paid Service

DECISION INFORMATION

<p>Is the decision a Key Decision? A Key Decision is an executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more District wards or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds:</p> <p>Revenue - £75,000 <input type="checkbox"/> Capital - £150,000 <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i></p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Is the decision subject to Call-In? <i>(Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)</i></p>	<p>No</p>

<p>District Wards Significantly Affected</p>	<p>All</p>
<p>Consultation: Leader / Deputy Leader <input type="checkbox"/> Executive <input type="checkbox"/> SLT <input type="checkbox"/> Relevant Service Manager <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Members <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Details: Previous engagement by scrutiny to produce scope.</p>

Links to Council Ambition: Customers, Economy and Environment.

Ambition: Environment

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

Appendix No	Title
6.1	Scope – Review of Council Policy on Sky Lanterns and Helium Balloons

Background Papers

(These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Executive you must provide copies of the background papers).