

**Bolsover District Council**

**Meeting of the Climate Change & Communities Scrutiny Committee on  
31<sup>st</sup> January 2023**

**Review of Council Policy on Sky Lanterns and Helium Balloons: Executive  
Response**

**Report of the Chair of Climate Change & Communities Scrutiny Committee**

<b>Classification</b>	This report is Public
<b>Report By</b>	Joanne Wilson, Scrutiny & Elections Officer, 01246 242385, <a href="mailto:joanne.wilson@bolsover.gov.uk">joanne.wilson@bolsover.gov.uk</a>
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Joanne Wilson, Scrutiny & Elections Officer, 01246 242385, <a href="mailto:joanne.wilson@bolsover.gov.uk">joanne.wilson@bolsover.gov.uk</a>

**PURPOSE/SUMMARY OF REPORT**

- To present to Scrutiny Executive's Response to the completed report for the recent Review of Council Policy on Sky Lanterns and Helium Balloons

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**REPORT DETAILS**

**1. Background**

- 1.1 During the 2020-21 municipal year, Members of the Healthy, Safe, Clean & Green Communities Scrutiny Committee were made aware of a number of resident concerns in relation to the impact of sky lantern and balloon use, both at specified celebrations such as birthdays/family and community events; Bonfire night and New Year's Eve.
- 1.2 Following referrals from the Customer Standards & Complaints Officer and the Leader of the Council, Members chose to investigate further to establish what the Council could do to mitigate the impacts at a local level.
- 1.3 While Members of Climate Change & Communities Scrutiny could not take this forward during 2021/22 due to workloads, there was a commitment to finish this piece of work and ensure the Council had adequate local policies in place.

**2. Details of Proposal or Information**

2.1 The aim of the review was:

- To assess the local impact of Sky Lanterns and Helium Balloons and review local Council policy.

2.2 The objectives agreed were:

- Assess national campaigns and neighbouring authorities and consider replicating a similar charter/policy for BDC.
- Assess the scale of the local environmental impact via consultation with both residents and local agencies/groups.

2.3 The key issues identified for investigation were as follows:

- A number of complaints/comments are received per annum from residents in relation to the use of such items and the environmental damage caused. All communications received refer to the national campaigns. Members queried if it was possible to establish evidence of the scale of the issue at a District level using data held by environmental health and legal services.
- A number of national organisations have given weight to a national campaign for legislation changes.

2.4 The Committee put together five recommendations which will hopefully assist the Council in limiting the impact of local use of sky lanterns and helium balloons.

### **3. Reasons for Recommendation**

3.1 Members are required to make their report and findings public, in accordance with Part 4.5.17(4) of the Constitution.

3.2 Committee is required to monitor implementation of their recommendations in accordance with Part 3.6(1) of the Constitution.

3.3 Members must note Executive's response to the review recommendations and agree to review progress on the approved recommendations. A progress report will be submitted in twelve months' time, with any exceptions to expected delivery highlighted.

### **4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection**

4.1 Committee is required to monitor implementation of their recommendations in accordance with Part 3.6(1) of the Constitution and as such the report cannot be rejected.

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### **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

1 That Members note Executive's Response to the Review of Voluntary & Community Sector Grant Allocations.

2 That Members make its report and findings public, in accordance with Part 4.5.17(4) of the Constitution.

- 3 That Officers monitor progress on the recommendations and report in six and twelve months' time highlighting exceptions to delivery, in accordance with Part 3.6(1) of the Constitution.

Approved by Executive

**IMPLICATIONS:**

**Finance and Risk:**            Yes             No

**Details:**

None from this report. Suggested action for the Council can be contained within existing budgets.

On behalf of the Section 151 Officer

**Legal (including Data Protection):**            Yes             No

**Details:**

In carrying out scrutiny reviews the Council is exercising its scrutiny powers as laid out in s.21 of the Local Government Act 2000 and subsequent legislation which added/amended these powers e.g. the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

The Council has a statutory duty under s.149 Equality Act 2010 to have due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity and to eliminate discrimination.

On behalf of the Solicitor to the Council

**Environment:**

Please identify (if applicable) how this proposal/report will help the Authority meet its carbon neutral target or enhance the environment.

**Details:** The creation of a local Charter acts as a statement of the Council's stance in wishing to decrease the environmental impact from sky lanterns and helium balloons on Council land and property.

**Staffing:**            Yes             No

**Details:**

There are no staffing implications from this report.

On behalf of the Head of Paid Service

## DECISION INFORMATION

<p><b>Is the decision a Key Decision?</b>  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><b>Revenue - £75,000</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Capital - £150,000</b> <input type="checkbox"/>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i></p>	No
<p><b>Is the decision subject to Call-In?</b>  <i>(Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)</i></p>	No
<p><b>District Wards Significantly Affected</b></p>	None
<p><b>Consultation:</b>  <b>Leader / Deputy Leader</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Executive</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  <b>SLT</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Relevant Service Manager</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  <b>Members</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Public</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other</b> <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Details: Relevant Service Managers and Portfolio Holder engaged during the review process.</p>

### Links to Council Ambition: Customers, Economy and Environment.

Ambition: Environment

## DOCUMENT INFORMATION

Appendix No	Title
9.1	Review of the Councils Policy on Sky Lanterns and Helium Balloons – Executive Response

### 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).*

Please contact Scrutiny & Elections Officer where further information is required.