

Report to	Cabinet	Item
	12 September 2018	
Report of	Director of neighbourhoods	9
Subject	Proposed ban of sky lantern and mass balloon releases from council owned land.	

Purpose

To consider a ban of sky lantern and mass balloon releases from council owned land.

Recommendation

To prohibit the release of sky lantern and mass balloon releases through the terms and conditions of the hire agreement for council owned land.

Corporate and service priorities

The report helps to meet the corporate priority a safe, clean and low carbon city.

Financial implications

None.

Ward/s: All Wards

Cabinet member: Councillor Maguire - Safe city environment

Contact officers

Michael Stephenson - public protection manager 01603 212283

Adrian Akester - head of citywide services 01603 212331

Background documents

None

Report

Background

1. In the late 1980's the council banned the release of balloons from its land. This was primarily helium filled latex balloons used to promote public relations or charitable events.
2. This ban was driven by the risk of harm to the environment and airport related issues and, at the time, we were one of the first councils in the UK to have a policy to address this potential environmental damage.
3. It is acknowledged that this policy needs to be updated to include the modern Mylar type (foil-coated and painted) balloons and sky lanterns both of which are recognised national issues.
4. Internationally a number of countries including Spain, Malta and Austria have already banned the use of sky lanterns.
5. These balloons and sky lanterns pose a risk of harm to wildlife and livestock, from ingestion, entanglement, entrapment and through the panic they can cause. There is evidence to show the release of sky lanterns also presents an avoidable fire and safety risk. In addition, both are a contributor to the defacement of land by litter and waste.
6. In 2012 the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) commissioned a desktop review of the evidence on sky lanterns and helium balloons. The findings indicate that there are risks from both, although there is limited evidence.
7. Defra's subsequent decision not to introduce a ban at a national level has placed the emphasis on local councils taking action.
8. Recently, the following Norfolk councils' have made the decision to ban these types of releases from council owned land. This follows on from other councils across the country who have also introduced bans:
 - The borough council of Kings Lynn and West Norfolk
 - North Norfolk district council
 - Norfolk county council
 - Broadland district council
 - Great Yarmouth borough council

Proposal

9. The policy is updated to include the prohibition of sky lanterns and the Mylar type balloons being released from council owned land. This would be achieved by amending the terms and conditions of the hire agreement. Additionally this reinforces the council's commitment to the environment and encourages community action to reduce waste going to landfill and the littering of the natural and built environment.

10. The resources required to deliver this proposal are low level in terms of officer time to update the hire agreement for council owned land.
11. If the terms of hire are found to have been breached the enforcement would be through refusing to allow that person/organisation to hire council land again.

Integrated impact assessment



NORWICH
City Council

The IIA should assess **the impact of the recommendation** being made by the report

Detailed guidance to help with the completion of the assessment can be found [here](#). Delete this row after completion

Report author to complete

Committee:	Cabinet
Committee date:	12 September 2018
Director / Head of service	Bob Cronk
Report subject:	Proposed ban of sky lantern and mass balloon releases from council owned land
Date assessed:	23 August 2018

	Impact			
Economic (please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Finance (value for money)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other departments and services e.g. office facilities, customer contact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
ICT services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Economic development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Financial inclusion	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Social (please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Safeguarding children and adults	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<u>S17 crime and disorder act 1998</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Human Rights Act 1998	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Health and well being	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

	Impact			
Equality and diversity (please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Relations between groups (cohesion)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Eliminating discrimination & harassment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Advancing equality of opportunity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Environmental (please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Transportation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Natural and built environment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Waste minimisation & resource use	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Pollution	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Sustainable procurement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Energy and climate change	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
(Please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Risk management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Recommendations from impact assessment
Positive
Improvement to the natural environment.
Negative
Neutral
Issues