

<b>Key Decision Required:</b>		<b>In the Forward Plan:</b>	
<b>Management Team</b>			
<b>Cabinet    Informal                 Formal</b>		<b>Council</b>	

## **MANAGEMENT TEAM**

**16<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2019**

### **REPORT OF DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

#### **A.1 DRONE POLICY**

(Report prepared by Matt Cattermole, Communications Assistant)

#### **PART 1 – KEY INFORMATION**

<b>PURPOSE OF THE REPORT</b>
For Management Team to agree to the adoption of a Drone Policy which will be part of the wider Communications Strategy.
<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b>
Tendring District Council has introduced drone technology to enhance aerial footage for both promotional and communication purposes. The Council will not use a drone for any surveillance footage.
Necessary training has been achieved and permission from the Civil Aviation Authority was granted to Tendring District Council in June 2019 for use of drones for the above purposes.
<b>RECOMMENDATION(S)</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1) For Management Team to agree to the adoption of the new Drone Policy as part of the wider Communications Strategy</b></li> <li><b>2) An Officer Decision will be made following Management Team to ensure that the Council’s constitutional processes are completed.</b></li> </ol>

#### **PART 2 – IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION#**

<b>DELIVERING PRIORITIES</b>
Having a drone policy will help to develop our communication offerings by producing more engaging content to promote the council’s corporate priorities’ work.
<b>FINANCE, OTHER RESOURCES AND RISK</b>
<b>Finance and other resources</b> No financial cost to introduce the policy. Ongoing operational costs for the drone are within an agreed budget.
<b>Risk</b> Risk of reputational damage through incorrect use of the drone is mitigated by this policy. Work is underway to build resilience by training up a second staff member in use of the drone.
<b>LEGAL</b>
The proposal is not to use a drone for any surveillance purposes across the Council. There are a few Councils that have used drones for surveillance purposes (eg. for planning

application processes) and they have received a certain amount of criticism and are reviewing current practices.

Processes in place allow for promotional and communications use only.

Drone operation in the UK requires both permission for commercial operations from the Civil Aviation Authority, and the operator themselves must be licensed. Tendring District Council has permission, and currently one member has a licence (see above in 'risk' with regards to resilience).

#### **OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

None.

#### **APPENDICES**

Draft drone policy  
Flight operations manual

**MARTYN KNAPPETT**  
**DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE**