# Oadby & Wigston Borough Council

# Drone and Model Aircraft Policy (November 2018)

Committee Approval	PFD, 27 November 2018
Policy Owner	Head of Law and Governance
Review Date	27 November 2021



# Oadby and Wigston Borough Council's Policy on Drone and Model Aircraft Usage

The Council has introduced a Drone and Model Aircraft Policy in response to an upsurge in public requests and usage occurrences on Council land including parks and public open spaces.

Drones or Model Aircrafts may not be flown from or above any Council owned or managed land without permission granted by the Council.

Permission will only be granted where usage of a drone device aids risk reduction in the work place such as working at height, land and building survey work and/or undertaking a professional service such as festivals & events media coverage.

An exemption will be granted to the Emergency Services to aid their work and to their named pilot(s) to maintain their Permission of Commercial Operation licence in accordance with the regulations contained within the Air Navigation Order 2016 (ANO).

The reasons for this policy for recreational or commercial requests are:

- Granting permission could leave the authority liable for subsequent actions brought about by drone and model aircraft activity when operated from land under our ownership.
- The close proximity of many of our sites to neighbouring residential and business properties and the potential risk of causing disturbance, annoyance or harassment to occupants and the users of public open space.
- Potential risk of accident, injury to other site users or property as a result of user or drone error.

## **How to Request Permission**

Permission should be requested in writing or by email to.

Head of Law and Governance

Council Offices, Station Road, Wigston, LE18 2DR

legal@oadby-wigston.gov.uk

Applicants must provide the following information with the request for permission:

- 1. A description of the purpose of the flight(s)
- 2. A copy of their PfCO license (Permission for Commercial Operation this is needed to operate a drone for commercial purposes in the UK)
- 3. A copy of their public liability insurance (minimum £5 million)
- 4. A copy of the proposed flight plan including launch and landing points
- 5. A copy of the risk assessment for the proposed flight

Upon receipt of these documents, consideration and approval/rejection will be provided within 10 working days.

The decision of the Head of Law and Governance will be final.

### Legislation

Applicants are also reminded that any drone or model aircraft being used for personnel use is also governed by the Civilian Aviation Authority (CAA) Air Navigation Order 2016, specifically <u>Article 241</u> (endangering the safety of any person or property), <u>Article 94</u> (small unmanned aircraft) and <u>Article 95</u> (small unmanned surveillance aircraft).