

## **Policy for the use of drones and model aircraft in parks and green spaces or other Council owned land**

The Policy for the use of drones and model aircraft in parks and green spaces or other Council owned land was introduced in September 2016 and was reviewed and revised in March 2025.

The Council does not permit the use of, or over flying by, drones and model aircraft in its parks and green spaces or other Council owned land for any recreational or commercial purposes.

The Policy decision and reasons take into account:-

- The close proximity of many of the Council's parks and open spaces or other Council owned land adjacent to neighbouring residential properties and the potential risk of causing alarm, distress or harassment to said occupants.
- Potential risk of accident, injury to other visitors to the parks and green spaces or Council property (including buildings and natural features) as a result of user or drone error.
- Potential risk of causing alarm, distress or harassment to the wildlife and biodiversity within the Council's parks and green spaces.
- The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) "Drone and Model Aircraft Code" specifying to keep away from residential, recreational [including parks and green spaces] commercial and industrial sites and that drones must not be flown within 50m from people, vehicles and buildings and/or over congested areas [<https://register-drones.caa.co.uk/drone-code/where-you-can-fly#keep-150m-away>] .
- Granting permission could leave the Council liable for subsequent actions brought about by drone activity when operated from land in the Council's ownership (including over flying land in the Council's ownership, even from and to, a destination which may not be in the Council's ownership).

A small number of exemptions may be granted for professional drone services such as marketing, communications, promotions and inspection purposes. All will be required to follow routine risk assessment and management processes and CAA guidelines/requirements. The scope, take-off and landing sites and fly paths will need to be agreed with Chelmsford City Council in advance.

September 2016, revised March 2025