

## **Use of Drones Procedure NSC**

### **October 2018**

*Please note permission will not be granted for hobbyist pilots to take off, fly over or land on council land / property*

North Somerset Council has developed this procedure for those wishing to film commercially in the district using a drone including condition inspections of Council buildings and assets.

You will need to adhere to the following requirements if are wishing to use a drone, but note this list is not exhaustive. If you require specific advice you should contact an independent specialist.

Drones are more formally known as Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) and can fly up to 400ft (restricted air space starts at 500ft).

### **Requirements**

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- As a pilot you must be licensed with the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and follow their regulations and advice to the letter, or you could be at risk of being prosecuted
- You must gain CAA permission to fly on a commercial basis and in a congested area
- You must provide the council with a health and safety risk assessment completed beforehand to identify risks and then steps to mitigate those risks and evidence of permission(s) gained from the CAA as appropriate.
- You must submit a flight plan which includes take-off and landing sites
- You should ensure that you have appropriate public liability insurance cover (£5,000,000) and supply a copy to the council
- Avoid using your drone in bad weather such as strong winds or heavy rain
- You are legally responsible for safely flying your drone
- A pilot requires permission of the landowner to take off, fly over and land their drone on council land / property
- Before flying your drone, make sure all the parts of the object are working according to the supplier's manual
- Keep the drone in sight when flying
- Don't fly your drone within 50 metres of a person, structure, vehicle or overhead of groups of people.
- Remember it is illegal to fly your drone over congested areas such as streets, towns, cities, public spaces and especially airports
- Drones cannot be flown at night (or out of daylight hours) unless you have expressed permission from the CAA to do so

- Using a drone to record images of other people without their consent could be a breach of the Data Protection Act 1998 (to be superseded by the European General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)) or the CCTV Code of Practice which was extended to include public use of drones where they are collecting information about individuals.

*Please note it is likely that the regulatory and operating framework will change within the next 12 months and this procedure will be updated accordingly*

- For more information on flying drones, visit [www.caa.co.uk/drones](http://www.caa.co.uk/drones)
- Have you checked your flight path <http://www.noflydrones.co.uk/>
- The information Commissioner's Office has issued guidelines regarding privacy and the use of drones for filming purposes. <https://ico.org.uk/for-the-public/drones/>