



**POLICY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE –
21ST JANUARY 2014**

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF MOTION – HELIUM BALLOONS

**REPORT BY: ACTING DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES AND SECTION 151
OFFICER**

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 Committee is asked to consider the Notice of Motion as set out in paragraph 4.1 of this report and make appropriate recommendations to Council.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 A Notice of Motion has been received from Councillor Mrs. Janet Jones in relation to helium balloons.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The Notice of Motion meets the criteria set out in the Council's Constitution and in accordance with the Council's Rules of Procedure is now referred to Committee for consideration.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 Councillor Mrs. Janet Jones requests in her Notice of Motion that:-

“This Council recognises and shares the Welsh Government's concerns associated with the use of releasing helium balloons into the environment. In particular, the Council deplores the environmental damage and serious harm helium balloons can cause to livestock, wildlife and marine life. Therefore, this Council agrees to ban the sale and release of helium balloons from any of its premises or property”.

- 4.2 In relation to ingestion by animals, current evidence indicates that the impact is very small and confined to only isolated incidents. The impact of helium balloons on livestock and horse health and welfare is very small.¹
- 4.3 Recent surveys have enabled evidence to be collected in relation to litter from helium balloons and concluded that this is only of minor significance.¹

¹ Sky Lanterns and Helium Balloons:
An assessment of impact on livestock and the environment – ADAS May 2013

- 4.4 Marine Life: There has been one recorded death in the UK, this related to a juvenile green turtle near Blackpool in 2001. Post mortem examination revealed a balloon in the stomach of the animal but this was in addition to other pieces of plastic litter, which makes determining the exact cause of death difficult. No other cases were reported which resulted in injury or death.¹
- 4.5 The risk to aviation from helium balloons is due to aircraft maneuvering to avoid them. Mass release of balloons is seen as a potential problem but industry codes of conduct stipulate the need for compliance with CAA guidelines.¹
- 4.6 The helium balloon sector is well represented by trade organisations and is able to demonstrate considered and tangible evidence of the sectors commitment to minimising risk.¹

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 Committee is asked to consider the Notice of Motion outlined in paragraph 4.1 of this report and make appropriate recommendations to Council.

Author: Colin Jones, Head of Performance and Property Services

¹ Sky Lanterns and Helium Balloons:
An assessment of impact on livestock and the environment – ADAS May 2013