

Date Provided: 6 June 2019

Drones and UAVs

Ref: FOI / 9227

Information Request and Response by Lewes District Council

The questions relate to the Local Authority's use of drones or unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs).

- 1) *Does the Council have a policy and/or strategy to benefit from drone/UAV based services?*

The council has a drone policy, but it's more for the safe operation of drones rather than benefit from drone based services. There is no policy or strategy in existence as to the benefit from drone/UAV based services for either Lewes or Eastbourne.

- 2) *Is the Council (or an associated arm's length organisation) licenced by the Civil Aviation Authority to deliver drone/UAV services?*

The council is not required to be licensed by the CAA; the PfcO is only for drone operators undertaking commercial operations with UAV's therefore ourselves, as a council, do not provide drone use for external third parties; we do not have or require the licences and insurances.

- 3) *If so, please can you confirm the scope of services being provided by the Council/arm's length organisation? **Not applicable***

- 4) *Has the council ever procured drone/UAV services from a third party?*

Lewes Tourism commissioned drone photography for different parts of Lewes District.

- 5) *If so, please can you confirm the scope of the services and details of the 3rd parties who provided the services?*

As above. Lewes Tourism commissioned Peter Cripps for the aerial photography used as part of a big project to rebrand Lewes Tourism that required fresh new imagery.

<https://www.crippsphotography.co.uk/>

6) *Please can you confirm the name and role of the lead officer with responsibility for policy and strategy relating to the council's use of drones/UAVs?*

There is no such position, although filming or photography generally is handled, from an administration point of view, our Marketing Officer.