

LICENSING COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 7 February 2018

PLEASURE BOATS (REP1823)**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

1. This report outlines a proposal to update the current Waveney District Council Pleasure Boat licensing scheme.

Is the report Open or Exempt?	Open
Wards Affected:	All Wards within the District
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Mary Rudd Cabinet Member for Community Health & Safety
Supporting Officer:	Caroline Evans Licensing Services Manager 01394 444678 caroline.evans@eastsoffolk.gov.uk

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 A local authority may grant upon such terms and conditions as they think fit licences for pleasure boats and pleasure vehicles to be let for hire or to be used for carrying passengers for hire on inland waterways.
- 1.2 The vessels are licensed under the provisions of the Public Health Amendment Act 1907 as amended by the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.
- 1.3 Waveney District Council may therefore licence pleasure boats operating on inland waterways apart from anything to the west of Mutford Lock Bridge as this comes under the jurisdiction of the Broads Authority.
- 1.4 Sea going vessels are regulated by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA).

2 PROPOSAL

- 2.1 The current boat licensing scheme was last updated in 2009; this report proposes the adoption of the same procedures, conditions and safety requirements as Suffolk Coastal District Council in order to align the policies in to reflect the partnership working already established by the Licensing Team, and in anticipation of the creation of one East Suffolk Authority. The proposed scheme was updated with reference to current Maritime and Coastguard Agency guidance.
- 2.2 The proposed policy details are attached as **Appendix A**.
- 2.3 The proposed inspection template (to be completed by a qualified marine engineer) is attached as **Appendix B**.
- 2.4 Waveney District Council currently licence 4 boats that operate as the ferry between Southwold and Walberswick and 1 operating from the Lowestoft Harbour Yacht basin to Mutford Lock.
- 2.5 Consultation could take place with the two current licensees to ensure that they find the proposals workable for their business.

3 HOW DOES THIS RELATE TO EAST SUFFOLK BUSINESS PLAN?

- 3.1 By supporting new business opportunities in the district whilst ensuring the safety of the public.

4 FINANCIAL AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 None.

5 OTHER KEY ISSUES

- 5.1 The decision affects the entire district.

6 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 Consultation with the existing trade.

7 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 7.1 To continue to regulate the pleasure boat trade with the current procedures.

8 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 8.1 To ensure the safety of the public, travelling on vessels licensed by Waveney District Council, whilst supporting business opportunities in the region.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Licensing Committee considers and approves the proposals to regulate pleasure boats within the Waveney district, outlined in Appendices A and B, to go out for consultation with the trade between 12/02/2018 and 09/03/2018 with responses being reported to the Committee at the meeting scheduled for 04/04/2018.

APPENDICES

Appendix A	Boat licensing scheme proposal.
Appendix B	Inspection template.

BACKGROUND PAPERS – None