



## **BASINGSTOKE CANAL JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

### **DRAFT MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT 17 OCTOBER 2008**

- 1 The Joint Management Committee (JMC) at its meeting on 20 October 2006 received a report on the Options Appraisal for the future management of the Canal. This arose from the ongoing financial constraints faced by many local authorities and the need to ensure the long-term financing of the Basingstoke Canal Authority. The riparian partners had agreed that the status quo would not be considered as an option as this would continue the slow decline of the Canal and would not resolve the funding constraints.
- 2 The Joint Management Committee in October 2006 agreed a number of recommendations including the following:-
  - the future management of the Canal requires long term guaranteed funding from all local authorities – the two owners and the riparian partners;
  - alternative funding formula models and a formal funding agreement be developed, using a service level agreement formula, including required performance measures;
  - senior elected Members agree the principles of a long term rolling three or five year funding commitment to the Canal ... to ensure that the actual running costs enable the Canal to operate as a safe, navigable waterway and the towpath remain open for recreation, meeting minimum legal requirements;
  - an updated joint partnership agreement for the operation and management of the Basingstoke Canal be developed;
  - the potential to reduce current operational costs and realise further income streams be reviewed;
  - the option of a charitable Trust be pursued further;
  - a condition survey for the Canal be commissioned and an Asset Management Plan be produced.
- 3 These recommendations have been pursued over the last two years. In particular funding formula models have been examined and at its meeting on 18 April 2008 the JMC agreed in principle a model for the riparian district and borough councils based on population within 5 miles of the Canal and bank mileage. A draft service level agreement was considered by the JMC in April

2008 based on a rolling three year funding commitment. The Canal Income Generation Group has had a number of meetings and as a result income has increased and proposals drawn up to increase income at the Canal Centre which will be set out in a Development Plan. A specification for a condition survey has been agreed and the survey will begin shortly leading to preparation of an Asset Management Plan.

- 4 This work now has proceeded to the point where the above recommendations can be drawn together into a memorandum of agreement, the development of which was also agreed by the JMC as set out above.
- 5 Attached is a draft memorandum of agreement. The memorandum sets out the basis of the partnership management arrangements as from April 2009 onwards. It refers to the Partnership's strategic direction, operational arrangements, decision-making, staff arrangements, budget and funding, service level agreements, termination and review. Attached as annexes are the current terms of reference and constitution of the JMC, the current membership of the Joint Advisory Group, the new funding formula and the draft service level agreement. The draft memorandum of agreement was discussed by the Joint Advisory Group on 26 September 2008 and a number of amendments have been incorporated.
- 6 The JMC's current constitution is set out in Annexe 1. It was last amended by the JMC in March 1990. Since 1990 two further amendments are necessary. Paragraph 4 (iii) needs to be amended to be clear that each local authority appoints its representatives according to its own standing orders. Also the JMC's current constitution includes in paragraph 4 (v) a list of groups who would nominate co-opted representatives. Under the Local Government Act the Committee has the power to co-opt advisory non-voting members provided the number of people co-opted does not exceed one third of the total number of the Committee. In view of the current situation where the JMC has two co-opted individual members (Alan Rice and Michael Gammon) and two representatives of special interest groups (Surrey and Hampshire Canal Society and Natural England) it is proposed the JMC's constitution should be amended in 4(v) to state "The Joint Management Committee shall co-opt up to 8 advisory non-voting individuals and representatives of special interest groups."
- 7 It is proposed that the JMC should agree the draft memorandum of agreement. Following the meeting it is proposed the chairman of the JMC should write to each of the local authorities asking for their formal endorsement of the memorandum. It is proposed that the next meeting of the JMC should be brought forward to March 2009 to allow consideration of the responses from the local authorities, prior to the start of the 2009/10 financial year.
- 8 In order to align better with the budgetary cycles of the local authorities it is proposed in future the JMC should be held in March and September each year.

## **Recommendations**

- 1) the draft Basingstoke Canal Partnership Memorandum of Agreement October 2008 be agreed;

- 2) the constitution of the Joint Management Committee be amended in paragraph 4(iii) to read "Each authority shall appoint its representative or representatives according to the standing orders of that authority for a period of not less than one year ..... " and in paragraph 4(v) to read: "The Joint Management Committee shall co-opt up to 8 advisory non-voting individuals and representatives of special interest groups";
- 3) the chairman of the Joint Management Committee write to ask all the constituent local authorities to agree the Memorandum as from April 2009.

---

LEAD/CONTACT OFFICER: Mike Dawson, Countryside Manager, Surrey County Council  
TELEPHONE NUMBER: 020 8541 9404  
Email: mike.dawson@surreycc.gov.uk

BACKGROUND PAPERS: None

---