



SURREY
COUNTY COUNCIL



Hampshire
County Council

Basingstoke Canal Joint Management Committee

Adjustment of Charging for Trail Boats - Decision Paper

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Key Issue

To approve a new tier of charging for trail boats who only want an occasional day licence during the year

Summary

BCA has received enquiries from smaller powered trail boat owners who want to use the canal, but who don't want to pay for a 30 day explorer ticket. It is proposed to offer a one day charge with a retention scheme for insurance/boating documents.

Officer's recommendation

The JMC is asked to:

- a) Approve change in charging for trail boats to include a one day licence at £8/day

The charging structure for powered trail boats will then be;

- 30 day explorer ticket £90 (can be used on any 30 days within one year)
- one day ticket £8 /day (No more than four consecutive day tickets to be purchased after which a week visitor licence must be purchased).

All powered trail boat licences will be in conjunction with a "paperwork" retention scheme which is already in place for other licences allowing the BCA to hold insurance and safety certificates for boats for an annual fee of £15 to save owners needing to produce the documents on every occasion.

1 Introduction and Background

- 1.1 A one day trail boat licence was an option that had previously been available on the Basingstoke Canal but had been removed at the February 2013 charging review in an attempt to simplify the numerous options available under the old scheme, many of which were never used. However BCA officers have recognised that there is significant demand for this option and that the Explorer scheme doesn't give enough flexibility to cover some infrequent Canal users.

2 Consultation

Comparisons With Other Local Canals.

	Day Licences Comparative Costs 2013			
	C&RT	R. Wey	R. Thames	Basingstoke
Full range Of prices <5.49m - <22m	£13.56 - £33.16	£8-£18	£11.80-£138	£8
< 4m (Usual Trail Boat Size)	£13.56	£8	£11.50	£8
Average Boat of 40ft	£21.10	£15	£30	£8

Figure 1

3 Financial and value for money implications

- 3.1 A simple pro-rata of the Explorer licence works out at £3/day, this is the same as the current charge for an unpowered craft. It is however logical that a powered craft should pay more per day than an unpowered craft, as they create more wash and therefore generate more wear and tear on the fabric of the Canal.
- 3.2 In July the BCA and Canal Management Team decided that there was sufficient interest to warrant implementing a day licence scheme for powered trail boats without delay; with no authority to set a further fee rate day licences were issued using the pro-rata rate of the 30 day Explorer licence (£3/day). Since then the BCA have already had ten people sign up to the retention scheme and sold twenty day licences.
- 3.3. The most common powered trail boats used on the Canal are up to 4m long with a petrol or electric outboard engine. A comparison with other canals' charges for this size of boat is shown in Figure 1. The proposal is for an increase of £5/day to match the charging schemes on other local waterways.

4 Equalities & diversity implications

- 4.1 This adds a cheaper option for less frequent users or owners of smaller trailed boats which makes the Canal more accessible to those who can't afford an annual licence.

5 Crime & disorder implications

- 5.1 Trail boats can be safely brought in for just a day and taken away again without risk of leaving them mooring and open to vandalism/theft.
- 5.2. By introducing an affordable day licence, there is less likelihood of unauthorised craft which may be over-powered or otherwise non-compliant with safety regulations being used on the Canal and therefore endangering other users or the fabric of the Canal.

6 Conclusion and recommendation

- 6.1 Implement new scale of charging from 1 April 2014.

7 What happens next

- 7.1 The BCA will amend the licence paperwork and implement the scheme if agreed by JMC.