

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**CABINET MEETING**

**30 July 2013**

Report of the Acting Strategic Director – Environmental Services

**PROPOSED PASSENGER BOAT SERVICE CROMFORD CANAL  
(JOBS, ECONOMY AND TRANSPORT)**

(1) **Purpose of the Report** To confirm and seek approval for the arrangements for the proposed passenger boat operation on the Cromford Canal by the Friends of Cromford Canal.

(2) **Information and Analysis** At its meeting of 26 September 2012, Cabinet agreed, subject to approval being forthcoming from Natural England, to waive standing orders relating to contracts to enable a partnership arrangement to be negotiated with the Friends of Cromford Canal for the operation of a passenger boat service on the Canal. It was also agreed that the final agreement would be brought back to a future Cabinet meeting for approval and would be subject to a five year review period.

The purpose of this report is to inform Cabinet of the agreement that has been reached with the Friends of Cromford Canal and seek final approval.

The Friends of Cromford Canal will operate a passenger boat service between Cromford and High Peak Junction. The service will be primarily electrically powered to meet environmental considerations and will have horse drawn operation at busy times. There will be a maximum of 600 trips per annum with no more than 4 trips in any one day, and responsibility for providing the service lies completely with the Friends.

Due to the Canal's status as a Site of Special Scientific Interest, the approval of Natural England for the operation was required and this has now been obtained.

The Friends have purchased a boat to provide the service and delivery to the canal is planned for the end of July 2013. Following a period of testing and training it is hoped that passenger carrying trips can commence from the middle of August.

(3) **Financial Considerations** The terms of the licence are that 100% of the profit shall be used solely by the Friends for projects to manage or improve the Permitted Route and the Cromford Canal generally, with individual projects being agreed and prioritised by the Canal Partnership.

(4) **Legal Considerations** The Friends of Cromford Canal will enter into a licence with Derbyshire County Council to operate the horse drawn and electrically powered boat service. The terms of the licence will govern the operation of the boat service. The terms of the licence also sets out that the County Council will use its best endeavours to ensure that the route is navigable, however, in the event that this is, for whatever reason, not possible, the Authority would not be required to compensate the Friends for any loss of income or other costs incurred by the Friends as a result.

(5) **Property Considerations** An agreement has been drawn up with the Friends that has been agreed by the Cabinet Member – Council Services dated 18 June 2013 (Minute No. 6/13 refers). The licence will be for 10 years but allow for a review of the operation after 5 years.

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: prevention of crime and disorder, equality and diversity, human resources, environmental, health and transport considerations.

(6) **Key Decision** No.

(7) **Call-In** Is it required that call-in be waived in respect of the decisions proposed in the report? No.

(8) **Background Papers** Proposed licence for a passenger boat service on the Cromford Canal. Officer contact details – Chris Coombs, extension 39821

(9) **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION** That the arrangements for a passenger boat service on the Cromford Canal, as approved by the Cabinet Member for Council Services, be endorsed.

**Mike Ashworth**  
**Acting Strategic Director – Environmental Services**