



To: Executive Councillor for Finance and Resources:  
Councillor Richard Robertson

Report by: Alistair Wilson - Streets and Open Space  
Development Manager

Relevant scrutiny Strategy & Resources Scrutiny 10/10/2016  
committee: Committee

Wards affected: Abbey Castle East Chesterton Market West  
Chesterton

## **REVIEW OF THE RIVER MOORINGS POLICY - CONSULTATION PROPOSALS Key Decision**

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### **1. Executive summary**

1.1 The purpose of any River Moorings Policy (RMP) should be to permit Cambridge City Council to effectively manage the provision of its mooring facilities, as the riparian<sup>1</sup> owner of the land adjacent to the river bank at defined locations within the River Cam corridor.

1.2 One of the primary aims of the review of the RMP is to provide a mechanism to advise interested parties about the way in which the Council will discharge its various functions and responsibilities for moorings.

1.3 Those identified as having an interest in the RMP include current and future moorers, visiting boaters, commercial boat operators, stakeholders, organisations and individual members of the community who have an interest in the river or are directly affected by activities which take place within the river and environs.

1.4 Officers recognises that the area of the River Cam covered by the RMP is becoming increasingly popular for a variety of activities and is now one of the busiest stretches of inland waterway within the United Kingdom, and the activities of the City Council needs to reflect the changing demands on the river system.

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<sup>1</sup> relating to or situated on the banks of a river  
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1.6 As a moorings management policy its limitations must also be recognised and as such this Review does not attempt to deal with the full range of City Council statutory responsibilities such as planning, social care and housing needs or the full range of ambitions expressed for the future of the River Cam.

1.7 The policy does however have regard to the wider responsibilities of the Council and has been prepared within a framework which recognises the context and importance of the locality.

1.8 This report considers and proposes a consultation on a range of issues and options relating to a revised RMP.

## **2. Recommendations**

The Executive Councillor is recommended:

- a) To instruct Officers to consult on a range of issues and options relating to the River Moorings Policy and to report back to a future Committee with findings and further recommendations.

## **3. Background**

3.1 On the 17<sup>th</sup> March 2016 the Executive Councillor for City Centre and Public Places consider a report that asked Officer to:-

- d) *To review the existing River Moorings Policy and report back to Scrutiny Committee in October 2016 with further recommendations.*

3.2 Officers have now progress this work on the review and seek approval to consult on a range of issues and options relating to the adaptation and modification of the RMP.

3.3 The Cambridge City Council, Moorings Management Policy 2010, was the first such policy prepared by the Council which had the intention of describing and itemising how moorings would be provided and managed.

3.4 It stated a number of purposes including:

- To set out in a single document the different decisions and conclusions that had been reached over the previous fifteen years during which the Council had taken a more proactive role in managing moorings within Council ownership.

- To ensure safe enjoyment of the river and its banks for residents and visitor alike, both on land and on the water, and to ensure the protection of wildlife and the natural environment associated with the river.
- To advise of the role of the Conservators of the River Cam as regulators of navigation through byelaws granted by The River Cam Conservancy Act 1922.

3.5 The appendix A to this reports itemises the proposed principal changes in policy which the Council wishes to consult on.

3.6 The overall aim being to manage the City Council Moorings in a sustainable way which meets the needs of boat owners and mooring users balanced with the recreational and residential needs of others.

3.7 In summary changes to the RMP may include:

- Mooring licence fees to be based on length of vessel;
- Annual mooring licences to be allocated by public auction;
- Temporary mooring licences to be extinguished on Riverside Wall;
- Application of no mooring at the Riverside Wall area.

3.8 The intention of any future RMP is to provide an overview of the various areas and issues which the Council and its partners need to consider when determining the provision and management of visitor, commercial and residential moorings on land within its ownership.

3.9 As such it has to have due regard to all other legitimate users of the river and its environs and anyone else who may be affected by the decisions it takes, such as neighbouring residents and commercial interests.

3.10 The future RMP is not intended to be exhaustive and cover every eventuality of permutation but seeks to give an explanatory outline covering why policy decisions and mechanisms have been taken and how they will be managed.

3.11 A proposed consultation issues and options paper is attached at Appendix A (to follow)

## **4. Implications**

### **(a) Financial Implications**

Any pricing, fees and charges as a consequence of the review of the RMP will be set within the context of the findings of an equality impact assessment. This to ensure that the City Council applies a consistent principle of fairness related to evidenced need and ability to pay,

whilst at the same time applying a cost effective and prudent approach to maximising revenue income from the policy.

(b) **Staffing Implications**

The Streets and Open Space – Operations Manager – Community Engagement and Enforcement, has been consulted on the report recommendations and has confirmed that she is content that her team has resources to support the implementation and long term management of the RMP.

(c) **Equality and Poverty Implications**

An equalities impact assessment will be completed after the consultation has concluded and will identify and responds to any negative impacts have been identified.

The decision on consulting on a revised RMP for moorings should not have an impact on any groups with protected characteristics above any more than anyone having those characteristics.

(d) **Environmental Implications**

This proposal has no direct climate change impact.

(e) **Procurement**

There are no procurement implications identified in this report.

(f) **Consultation and communication**

Responses and feedback will be used to consider and formulate the recommended RMP.

This report seeks approval to publish a consultation to help select the most appropriate RMP option(s) through analysing feedback, and seeks to reach broad consensus.

The consultation will be advertised through press releases, signage on Common entrances; and sent directly to stakeholders and local groups.

The consultation will be made available on line via the City Council website; hard copies will be available upon request.

Comments and responses received will be redacted to remove personal information or information that could identify individuals or groups and published in a summarising report.

Observations or additional options that are proposed will be considered and may or may not be included in the RMP.

- Approval of content at the 10th October Strategy and Resource Committee;
- Adaptations/ modifications made at Strategy & Resources Committee made to the consultation and the launch date of the 14th October;
- One to one meetings with stakeholder groups 14<sup>th</sup> October 2016 until 9<sup>th</sup> December 2016.
- Consultation closing date 9th December 2016;
- Final Reports for Strategy & Resources Committee 3rd January 2017;
- Strategy & Resources Committee decision on recommendations - 23rd January 2017.

(g) **Community Safety**

The recommendations in this report have no foreseen direct impact on Community Safety.

## **6. Appendices**

- Appendix A – Consultation Questionnaire;

## **7. Inspection of papers**

These background papers were used in the preparation of this report:-

- An Update Report on Riverside Moorings – 11th July 2014
- Changes to the Moorings Policy – 16th January 2014.
- Progress on the Review of the River Moorings Policy – 8th October 2015
- River Moorings – An Update on the Contract Law Model consultation - 17th March 2016.

To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact:

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