



Minutes

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| Title: | Future of Boat Licensing Review Commission | |
| Date: | 9 May 2025 | |
| Venue: | Teams | |
| Present: | Andrew Cowan Sir Chris Kelly Penelope Barber | Chair |
| In attendance Canal & River Trust: | Tom Deards Poppy Welburn | Legal & Governance Director Project & Infrastructure Lawyer |
| | Campbell Tickell | |

| Governance | | |
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| 32/25 | The minutes from meeting of 30 April had been published on the Commission's webpage. | |
| Draft Consultation Report | | |
| 33/25 | <p>CT took the Commission through the draft report, highlighting the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responders generally appeared to welcome the survey and the opportunity to feedback • A wide range of issues were raised, including themes around boat licence value for money, enforcement, maintenance and repair, mooring provision and affordability, overcrowding, perceptions of the Trust and communications • Several different solutions were put forward around licence types • There was an apparent divide between responses which advocated more robust boat licence enforcement and those which argued for the Trust to scale back on enforcement. <p>The Commission thanked CT for the draft report and discussed the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The need for clarity on the qualitative methodology of the engagement survey and to explain any assumptions made in the report. • How best to surface ideas or solutions that were contained in the raw data which may not have been included in the draft report. • The extent to which themes of maintenance and value for money from the boat licence fee were within the scope of the Commission • Engaging further with responders who did confirm they would be willing to be contracted for further discussions. • Publication of the engagement survey report and timing of any publication. <p>Action: the Commission agreed to produce a composite set of comments on the detail of the draft report for CT to review and produce a final version of the report.</p> | Commission |

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| | Stakeholder Meetings | |
| 34/27 | <p>The Commission discussed upcoming stakeholder meetings on 16 and 19 May and reviewed the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The list of stakeholder groups and draft schedule of meetings. • The format of meetings. The Commission did not wish to record or take formal notes of the meetings, to encourage free and frank discussion. • The focus and structure of the meetings. The Commission were keen to keep to boat licensing rather than wider issues and to avoid groups simply repeating survey responses. AC agreed to send a pre-meeting confirmation email. • The questions that the Commission should raise with the various groups. <p><i>Action: AC agreed to produce draft wording for a pre-meeting email to each group, for Commission review.</i></p> | Commission |
| | AOB | |
| 35/28 | Further meeting dates were discussed, including a London site visit. | |