

ACQUISITION OF WATERWAY INFRASTRUCTURE ASSETS - POLICY

Julie Sharman 14/08/2017

This policy describes how the Trust will consider opportunities to acquire waterway infrastructure assets from third parties.

The Trustees will make the final decision on waterway acquisitions. They are legally responsible for directing all the Trust's business and for ensuring the Trust's future therefore any waterway acquisition will be at the sole discretion of the Trustees.

The Trust will only consider the acquisition of waterway infrastructure assets that bring with them a commercial proposal which addresses the whole life running and maintenance costs of the infrastructure, estimated future risk as valued by the Trust and the cost of any capital investment required to reduce the existing risk level.

Any organisation wishing to transfer assets will agree to fund the due diligence work associated with assessing the acquisition proposition and will sign a costs undertaking to underwrite the Trusts internal costs. To determine the forecast cost of ownership, the Trust will build a financial model for the assets proposed for transfer. In addition, further investigations and assessments may be required and these will be determined on a case by case basis.

The Trust is likely to consider factors which may further the Trusts charitable purposes such as:

- commercially attractive transfer proposals
- benefits to existing customers through connections to existing navigable networks
- improved facilities and services for existing customers
- reach and connections to new waterside communities
- additional opportunities to generate income to support the work of the Trust.

In addition, the restoration status of a waterway whether in progress or incomplete will also be considered.

As part of any transfer agreements and in addition to funds and income producing investments, the Trust may consider the use of established volunteer organisations to undertake some parts of operation and maintenance activities as part of any proposed funding proposal, subject to a review of the sustainability and risk involved.

Responsibilities

Implementation of this policy: Head of Technical Support
Responsible Director: Chief Operating Officer.